TALKING POINTS FOR POTENTIAL LOBBY DAY TOPICS
NOT COVERED BY ISSUE PAPERS
APRIL 2013

Workforce Development – The America Works Act (HR 497 and S 453) – When discussing workforce development, you may be asked if you support The America Works Act. The bill would "allow certain federal job training and career education programs to give priority to programs that lead to recognized postsecondary credentials." This is designed to help those industries and skill sets (i.e., stamping and welding) that have industry-recognized and nationally portable credentials programs. FIA does not have one of these programs. We are not against these bills but do not feel FIA members would see a direct benefit. FIA endorsed HR 803 (SKILLS Act – the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Authority.)

Immigration Reform – A group of bipartisan Senators (the "Gang of Eight") are expected to release an immigration reform bill during the week of April 15. FIA does not yet have an official position on immigration reform. Other business groups such as the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the US Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable have taken broad positions of support for reform due to the need for low and skilled workers. Please feel free to speak to your specific workforce/immigration experiences.

Currency – HR 1276 is the currency manipulation bill in the 113th Congress. In general, FIA supports China being labeled a currency manipulator.

NLRB – In January 2013, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled President Obama’s recess appointments to the NLRB unconstitutional. The NLRB has indicated that it will ask the Supreme Court to take up the matter by April 25, 2013, the deadline for such a request. In the meantime, great uncertainty exists. FIA supports HR 1120, Preventing Greater Uncertainty in Labor-Management Relations Act. It would require the National Labor Relations Board to cease all activity that requires a three member quorum or from enforcing any action taken after January 2012 until the Supreme Court rules on the case or a board quorum is constitutionally confirmed by the Senate. (The President has pending nominations or re-nominations for all 5 seats as of April 9.) HR 1120 passed the House on April 12 by a vote of 219-209. There is little chance of a Senate vote or companion bill because of the 60 vote threshold.

Defense – Potential effects of sequestration – You will find many forgings in defense applications. Structural, engine and landing gear parts of military aircraft are forged; a heavy tank contains over 550 separate forgings, the 120mm gun tube on the M1A2 battle tank is forged, the US Navy's Aegis Class guided missile destroyers are steered by 2 forged rudder stocks approximately 20 feet in length and weighing 35,000 pounds each, cruise missile warheads and all penetrator bomb cases are forged, and a standard artillery shell usually contains at least 2 forged components. While FIA agrees that we must find responsible ways to manage our deficit, it is vitally important that the defense supply chain is maintained. Once a critical defense forging capability is lost in the United States, it will be very capital intensive to regain it.