



UPDATE 1: CLOTURE FILED ON FAA REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Background on FAA Reauthorization Bill

- **Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)** proposed Amendment 3547 to the FAA Reauthorization bill that would direct, among others, the Director of the FAA to “expand the rule to prohibit the carrying of battery-powered portable electronic smoking devices in checked baggage and in carry-on baggage.”
- As of today, about 200 amendments had been filed on the FAA Reauthorization Bill.

Up to the Minute

- Late yesterday, negotiations to amend the FAA Reauthorization Bill with a major tax title amendment failed. With this part of the negotiations failing, there will be less opportunity for other amendments to receive a vote.
- **Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)** will need to get 60 votes for cloture in order for the Senate to move to debate and discussion of the FAA bill.
- At about 8:00 p.m. last night, **Leader McConnell** filed cloture, setting up a vote for Thursday. Throughout the day today and tomorrow, Leaders in the Senate will determine what filed amendments will get a vote.

VTA at Work

- **VTA’s Government Affairs Team** has been working vigorously against Sen. Blumenthal’s amendment. The end of last week, over the weekend, and the first two days of this week on the Hill, VTA’s Team has been in regular contact with Senate Leadership and the FAA Reauthorization Bill sponsor. In addition, VTA’s Team has communicated with Members of the Commerce Committee, HELP Committee, and Senate Leadership team.

Keep Up the Pressure!

- Thanks to all the vapers and vape shop owners and concerned family members who answered the Call to Action.
- Today, leadership will try to process other amendments and Sen. Blumenthal’s amendment could be one of them. However, our intelligence tells us that there are a number of hurdles for the amendment and that certain Democratic Senators may have other interests which could block the amendment process.
- While we are encouraged so far, VTA’s Team is going to keep up the pressure on the Hill.
- **And we need you to do the same.** If you haven’t already, click on the following link and follow the instructions to send an e-mail to your Republican Senator(s) and one of the 6 Democratic Senators listed: [VTA Call to Action](#)

UPDATE 2: INITIAL AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE FILED

Up to the Minute

- Late Tuesday afternoon, the powerful House Appropriations Committee released its fiscal year 2017 agriculture spending bill that would provide \$21.3 billion in discretionary funding.
- At page 93 of the [Agricultural Appropriations Bill](#) there is a provision that would bar the FDA from utilizing any of its funding to “finalize, implement, administer or enforce” the Deeming Regulation if the regulation applies to premium cigars.

VTA at Work

- **VTA’s Government Affairs Team** has developed a strong case for vapor products on the Hill and is working on language that would similarly prevent the FDA from using its funding to enforce the Deeming Regulation over vapor products.
- Markup of the Agriculture Appropriations bill will take place in subcommittee today, but we do not expect any amendments to be introduced in subcommittee.
- Stay tuned for updates and Calls to Action on this important issue.