



TIA ON THE HILL

The Latest News and Updates from TIA's Government Affairs Department

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Trinity Logistics Set to Testify Before Senate Finance Committee

TIA Member, Trinity Logistics will be testifying before Congress this week. The Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness under the Senate Finance Committee will be hosting this important hearing that will examine the status of the supply chain and the continued disruptions. Mr. Doug Potvin, Chief Financial Officer of Trinity Logistics will be testifying on behalf of Trinity Logistics at the hearing.

The hearing entitled, "Supply Chain Resiliency: Alleviating Backlogs and Strengthening Long-Term Security." The hearing comes at a time when an unprecedented number of shipping vessels continue to be backlogged waiting to unload at ports, gas prices continue to rise, and major products like baby formula face national shortages. Mr. Potvin offers 30 years of experience on this topic and there is no better expert to deliver these updates to lawmakers.

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TIA Vice-President of Government Affairs Chris Burroughs said this at the hearing, “between a failed cross border vaccine mandate and our legislation on C-TPAT which is authored by the Chair and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, the Members on this panel will get a rare insight from an industry leading 3PL in Trinity Logistics who is facing these issues head on.”

If you wish to watch the hearing, please click this link on Wednesday, May 25th at 3:00 PM EST.

<https://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/supply-chain-resiliency-alleviating-backlogs-and-strengthening-long-term-security>

NHTSA Reports Increase in Truck Fatalities

Last week, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released a report that showed that the number of individuals who were killed on our nation’s highways increased by 11% in 2021. The increase is the largest annual percentage increase reported by NHTSA since the agency started keeping records in 1975. TIA has for years supported the creation of a federal Motor Carrier Safety Selection Standard that would require brokers and shippers to check certain safety aspects of a trucking company before arranging transportation with them, something that currently does not exist. TIA will continue these efforts while combating opposition from the safety advocates who remain on the wrong side of safety in supporting the status quo and increasing number of large truck fatalities.

According to the report, Americans drove 325 billion more miles in 2021 than 2020, so that the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled edged slightly down from 1.34 to 1.33 deaths. The rate of deaths in proportion to miles driven had spiked dramatically in 2020, when roadway deaths skyrocketed despite Americans driving less. NHTSA has attributed that increase to more unsafe driving behaviors like speeding, driving while intoxicated and distracted driving.

NHTSA on Tuesday drew attention to the work it is already doing to address what DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg has been calling a “crisis on America’s roadways.” DOT released its National Roadway Safety Strategy in January, setting a goal of zero deaths on America’s roads and committing to a safe systems approach for the department, and earlier this week announced the launch of the new \$6 billion Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program, which was created by the new infrastructure law.



Baby Formula Shortage and Potential Solutions?

A baby formula shortage has plagued the country and American lawmakers are scrambling for solutions. After public outcry, the Congress and President have taken on this shortage just months before a general election that could change control of Congress and re-shape the relationship with the White House. The President has announced steps to address the shortage, which include engaging the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to stabilize markets, target unfair and predatory pricing through the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and utilize trade relationships.

All these actions fall short compared to the most recent move, where President Biden has invoked the Defense Production Act which essentially commandeers private companies' production and directs them to make certain items. For example, during World War II when President Roosevelt ordered the manufacturing of military vehicles or when President Trump ordered the production of ventilators by companies like Ford and General Electric.

The House of Representatives passed a bill on May 18th to supplement funding for the creation of additional baby formula. This passed on a 231-192 vote and now goes to the Senate for further action. TIA has been in contact with Congressional leaders as they search for supply chain solutions that could help fix this shortage and deliver product to American shelves for purchase.