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The latest news and updates from TIA's Government Affairs Department



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This week we learned of the Biden Administration halting all final rules promulgated under the previous administration that were released out of the Federal Agencies. A memo from the White House Chief of Staff, Ron Klain ordered all rules, which raise questions of sustainable based on "policy, law or fact" and were sent to the Office of Federal Register (OFR) but not published in the Federal Register must be withdrawn and reviewed. Additionally, Klain ordered that all final rules that have been sent to the OFR, published, but have not taken effect are to be extended an additional 60-days.

This does impact TIA as we have focused heavily in the last six months on the Department of Labor's independent contractor rule. The Rule which favors businesses and those individuals who chose to be contractors and self-employed was a good but not perfect phase out from President Obama's misclassification of workers. The new rule was just a few weeks of being implemented during the Biden Administration, but was no effective yet, as it came late into President Trump's final days. The rule was widely seen as a firewall against states like California, who have been aggressively pushing to ultimately eliminate ICs.

This is the first step of a likely busy four years under President Biden's regulatory push. TIA will be ready for a slew of rule-makings from the Labor Department and other agencies. TIA will continue to monitor our traditional highway and transportation issues, in addition to the growing number of issues coming from the Department of Labor.

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DOT Offers \$50k Award for Antihuman Trafficking Technology Initiative

The Department of Transportation released a solicitation notice today for its "Annual Combating Human Trafficking in Transportation Impact Award" an award of \$50,000.

The award serves an opportunity to entice the private sector to get off the sidelines and do more to end the scourge of human trafficking. This heartbreaking problem faces the United States and the rest of globe as there are estimates between 20 to 40 million individuals who have fallen victim to human trafficking. The deadline for submission is Saturday, February 27, 2021.

Entrants compete for a cash award of up to \$50,000 to be awarded to the individual(s) or entity selected for creating the most impactful counter-trafficking initiative or technology. The U.S. Department of Transportation intends to incentivize individuals and entities to think creatively in developing innovative solutions to combat human trafficking in the transportation industry, and to share those innovations with the broader community."

For more information about the award, please contact advocacy@tianet.org.



TIA President & CEO Anne Reinke meets with leaders of senate commerce committee

This past week TIA Government Affairs team and President and CEO Anne Reinke met with staff for Senator Marie Cantwell (D-WA) and Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) himself. The incoming Chairwoman of the Senate Commerce Committee and the Ranking Member for the Committee. The purpose of the call was to introduce the Senators and their staffs to Anne and highlight the key legislative priorities for the Association. These would include the Motor Carrier Safety Selection Standard (MCSSS) and legislative language that requires the FMCSA to clarify the role of a dispatch service and crack down on those entities that are illegally brokering freight.

The meetings went very well and the offices were receptive to our issues and priorities. TIA will be in a great position to effectively lobby on behalf of the 3PL industry in the 117th Congress.

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Comment Period on the TIA Petition Comes to a Close

The comment period for TIA's Petition for Rulemaking with the FMCSA came to a close on Monday, January 25th. There were 159 comments submitted to the record, responding to our request to eliminate 371.3 (c) and asking the Agency to provide clarification on what constitutes a legal dispatch service. TIA would like to thank all the members who filed comments and supported our efforts to eliminate this outdated and unnecessary regulation from 1980.

TIA has been working with the Biden Administration and the new DOT officials to flag this rulemaking for them and advocating our position. Stay tuned for more updates on this issue.





We need Your Support with the PAC

Transportation Intermediaries Association

TIA appreciates the support that we received from the newsletter last week for the PAC. We are are garnering new donors and this greatly benefits the organization in the long run. We are far from where we need to be. In looking at the public filings OOIDA gets around 15-20% participation from their membership, where TIA only gets 5%. If we could increase this total to 30% we would be a huge voice on Capitol Hill. So, if you are sitting there thinking, I do not need to donate, someone else is... We need your support too!

Do not let OOIDA beat us. Send your PAC donations now by emailing Chris Burroughs (burroughs@tianet.org) with the TIA and let him know how much you want to give and he will walk you through the process and the options. Thank you for support.

-Kenny Clark, President & CEO of Kenneth Clark Company and Vice Chairman of the TIAPAC Board of Directors

