



TIA ON THE HILL

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



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Final Rule Signed Changing DOT Rulemaking & Guidance Procedures

On March 24, 2021, Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Peter Buttigieg signed a Final Rule which will "remove the Department's internal policies and procedures relating to the issuance of rulemaking and guidance documents from the Code of Federal Regulations." The change will provide Secretary Pete with an opportunity to review rules and guidance on his terms.

This rule comes on the heels of White House Chief of Staff Ron Klein issuing a regulatory freeze throughout the Executive Branch. This was a direct response to reverse many of the rules that were promulgated in the last four years by President Trump. This new Final Rule signed last week is not specifically related to any particular policy or rule, but is focused on internal and administrative procedures. This could affect transportation policies over the next four years.

President Biden responded to this final rule being signed, noting "It is the policy of my Administration to use available tools to confront the urgent challenges facing the nation."

TIA will continue to monitor rulemaking developments coming from the Administration. If you have any questions, please contact advocacy@tianet.org.

Congressional Committees Hold Hearings on Infrastructure

Last week, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation held both a nomination hearing on Ms. Polly Trottenberg to serve as the Deputy Secretary of Transportation and a full committee oversight hearing entitled, "*Driving the Road to Recovery: Rebuilding America's Transportation Infrastructure*." Both Committee actions represent an increased focus on the passage of a long-term transportation bill that would overhaul our supply-chain and rebuild our nation's crumbling infrastructure.

Ms. Trottenberg was favorably reported out of the Committee on a bipartisan vote of 24-4. Ms. Trottenberg was most recently the Commissioner of Transportation in New York City. If voted on in the full Senate, she will serve under the leadership of DOT Secretary Peter Buttigieg. With both Chambers of Congress being controlled by the Democratic party, the Biden Administration will have a larger role in deciding the future of any transportation legislation and priorities.

The oversight hearing focused heavily on local issues, where each Senator spoke about the needs in their state. The witnesses for the hearing ranged from the private sector to regional transportation representatives and port officials. There tended to be a heavy focus on rail crossings and the overall safety of the rail industry, which could allude to the priorities of Congress for this session.

Other topics that raised included autonomous vehicles and ensuring that rural transportation corridors have the same attention as urban areas. This hearing was a first step for the Senate Commerce Committee as they begin development of their work on their portion of the re-authorization bill. The Committees on Environment & Public Works, Finance & Banking, and Housing also have roles in the development of the highway bill.

Also last week, the House T&I Committee held an oversight hearing on the Administration's priorities in terms of transportation projects. The hearing lasted more than five hours and Secretary Pete was gracious, well prepared, and willing to answer all the questions from the Members of the Committee. The topics of issues discussed were wide ranging and cover a variety of issues affecting highways, broadband and transportation stakeholders.

TIA is closely monitoring the highway bill and are working to have some of our priorities included in the best text, including, the Motor Carrier Safety Selection Standard (MCSSS) and Dispatch Services.

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Winner to Be Announced May 17

TIA Grassroots & Lobbying Efforts Ramp-Up on PRO Act

TIA has been busy the last couple of weeks on the defense to stop the disastrous PRO Act in the Senate, and ultimately from becoming law. The latest news is that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has indicated that if the legislation gets 50 co-sponsors in the Senate, they will proceed with a floor vote. The number of current co-sponsors sits at 45. Additionally, last week during President Biden's prime time press conference, he indicated that he was open to the Senate eliminating the filibuster for civil rights issues and equated the procedural tactic to Jim Crow laws era. Below is a marketing piece that we have put together for our members to utilize in social media and other platforms to get the word out, to VOTE NO ON PRO!

Vote NO on PRO

[Protecting the Right to Organize Act]

The 3PL industry needs to band together and protect our industry from dangerous legislation.

Voting NO on PRO will:

- Support independent contractors and owner-operators
- Protect the agent business model
- Allow flexibility for the modern worker
- Safeguard the privacy of individuals by not allowing unions to access sensitive personal information
- Maintain right-to-work state laws
- Eliminate the overreach of non-union workers from being forced to pay union dues
- Save businesses thousands in fines & penalties from frivolous misclassification lawsuits



**Call 202.224.3121 today to speak with your Senator
Tell them to "Vote NO on PRO"**

To get further engaged on this issue, contact
advocacy@tianet.org or 703.299.5700

The Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA) is the trusted voice for third-party logistic (3PL) companies and freight brokerages of all sizes. TIA provides leadership and direction for industry and professionals to advance professional standards and business practices, to include the overall image and credibility of the profession and its ultimate contribution to society. TIA serves more than 1,700 3PL companies and helps them better manage their businesses for growth and profitability.

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