



# TIA ON THE HILL

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

**OUT OF ORDER**

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## **Attempt to Increase Minimum Wage Ruled Out of Order**

President Biden and Democratic Leadership in the House and Senate have been working overtime (no pun intended) on increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour. On Thursday of last week, the prospects for making this change were dealt a fatal blow from the Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough. She found that the wage provision did not have sufficient fiscal impact in relation to its affect on the economy to qualify under the budget reconciliation process.

This means that Democrats will have to remove this provision from the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package that is making its way through Congress. This is a huge blow, as the Democrats were seeking to enact this federal increase with a simple 50 vote in the Senate.

Democrats will likely now have to try and pass the wage increase through the ordinary legislative process, which requires 60 votes to end debate. There is a way to overturn the ruling of the Byrd Rule (which we spoke about last week) that requires 51 votes, but Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) has said he would not support that procedural move.

TIA will continue to track this provision and report back on major actions.

## T&I Committee Holds Hearing on Equity in Transportation



The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee held a hearing last week on a top priority of President Biden's, addressing equity in the United States. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg recently noted that he would like his Department to examine issues related to racial equity and other cultural issues that impact minorities and communities of color.

"We recognize how misguided investments and missed opportunities for federal transportation policies have reinforced racial and economic inequality. The wrong kind of investment can divide or isolate neighborhoods."

This similar sentiment was also apparent in the House T&I hearing last week, entitled: "Examining Equity in Transportation Safety Enforcement." Some of the common themes were echoed in the hearing, where several Members of the Committee stated that the Federal Government should focus grants for localities that can be used for a variety of issues including education, awareness, and law enforcement agencies for safety violations. Members went further to stress a focused approach on keeping drivers and the public safe, not pulling over drivers for minor traffic violations based on the color of their skin.

Additionally, there will be a major focus from Congress on body worn cameras, community advisory boards and more oversight into who is getting pulled over and the reason for doing so. This includes federal oversight, shifting away from NHTSA to the Department of Justice for enforcement consent decrees.

TIA's focus will continue to be safety for everyone of all races, gender, and ethnicities. We will continue to champion a supply-chain and 3PL industry that focuses on safety, fairness, and equity.

**Less Than 70 Tickets Remain!**

Contact [burroughs@tianet.org](mailto:burroughs@tianet.org) to Purchase Your Ticket

**TIA<sup>PAC</sup>**  
Transportation Intermediaries Association

**2021 GUN RAFFLE**

**BENELLI SUPER BLACK EAGLE 3 SEMI-AUTO SHOTGUN**

**\$250**  
PER TICKET

**100**  
TICKETS  
AVAILABLE

**LIMIT 1**  
TICKET  
PER PERSON

**ENDS**  
APRIL 30

Winner to Be Announced May 17

## TIAPAC - Mark Your Calendars for March 10th

The TIAPAC Board of Directors will be holding a "Member Outreach Marathon" in support of the TIAPAC. We have written several articles recently about the need and importance of donating to the PAC. We cannot stress enough the value it brings to our legislative efforts.

Additionally, last year the TIA Board of Directors amended the TIAPAC bylaws to allow the TIAPAC to support candidates for federal office. This will allow us to support candidates early in the process who are business friendly and support the transportation industry, before coming to Congress and being bombarded by every other Association.

The "Member Outreach Marathon" will consist of the TIAPAC Board of Directors and TIA staff calling TIA Members who are eligible to be solicited and asking for their support of the TIAPAC during this important time.

Stay tuned for the upcoming event and keep your phone on for this important call!



## C-TPAT Call to Action

TIA is asking you to join us in our efforts to have DOT licensed non-asset based 3PLs become eligible for the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program. The C-TPAT program was started after the terrorist attacks on 9/11 and essentially serves as the "TSA Pre-Check" of freight coming across the borders. It is a mutual beneficial agreement between the federal agency and industry stakeholders, who agree to be in compliance with the agency's minimum security requirements.

To date, DOT licensed non-asset based 3PLs are still not allowed to be part of the program, which has created a competitive disadvantage for a lot of our members and a potential safety gap in cross-border movements. TIA has been working on this issue for over 10 years.

On March 17th, the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) will be meeting on a variety of topics including the C-TPAT program. TIA will be filing comments for the record, and we are asking that our members do as well, to start paving the way to allow our members entry into the program.

TIA is also working with Congress on addressing this loophole as well and will have more information soon on those efforts.

For more information, please contact [advocacy@tianet.org](mailto:advocacy@tianet.org).

