



TIA ON THE HILL

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



IN THIS ISSUE

TAX HIKES ARE BACK ON THE MENU

SEC. PETE BACK ON THE HILL FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

REPUBLICANS RELEASE THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

PRESIDENT BIDEN SELECTS MEERA JOSHI TO LEAD FMCSA

PRO ACT: DOWN TO THREE

Tax Hikes Are Back on the Menu

The massive infrastructure investment that Congress is currently working on in Washington, D.C., must be paid for, and the Administration has set its sights on corporate taxes as the funding source. In 2017, the Republicans cut both personal and corporate taxes, which assisted several business sectors throughout the economy, including many TIA Members. Fast forward to 2021, and President Biden is "eying tax rates as high as 43%." This is a recipe for corporations and businesses to be weary on the future of their companies and economic outlook.

The Administration has seemed to focus on three main revenue sources, including personal income for the wealthy, capital gains tax, and corporate tax increases. Corporations have already stated that taxes will result in lower wages and higher cost of goods.

Be on the lookout for a message from President Biden on this during his address to a joint session of Congress on April 28. Additionally, during the White House daily press briefing last week, Press Secretary Jen Psaki stated, "We're still finalizing what the pay-for [will] look like."

The situation is very fluid and nothing has been finalized yet, but one thing is a reality: taxes will likely be going up for many Americans.

Sec. Pete Back on the Hill for Congressional Hearings



Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary and former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg found himself back on Capitol Hill last week. This time the Secretary testified before the Senate Appropriations Committee led by long-time Senator Pat Leahy (D-VT) and Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL). The Committee hearing was cordial and started with opening remarks and comments from the Secretary selling the President's plan for infrastructure investment.

"The plan will improve more than 20,000 miles of roads and 10,000 bridges. It will strengthen aviation, ports, and waterways. It will address critical backlogs in rail and expand world-class passenger rail services, including high-speed rail. It has dedicated funds for projects that will have significant benefits to the regional or national economy but are too large or complex for existing funding programs."

Questions from the Committee ranged in topics from criticizing a "green plan versus a real plan" to growing the usage of rail in the Northeast. Obviously, Senators focused on regional issues specific to their states. TIA continues to focus on moving the surface transportation re-authorization forward to help improve our nation's infrastructure needs and priorities, while moving forward with several legislative priorities of the Association as well.

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Republicans Release Their Own Transportation Plan

Republicans have released their counter proposal for a nationwide infrastructure plan. The plan was introduced by Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), who is the top Republican on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The Committee has jurisdiction over a massive portion of the larger re-authorization bill. This plan would allocate around \$568 billion, which is significantly less than President Biden's plan which calls for \$2.25 trillion.

The five-year plan heavily focuses on roads and bridges and more than doubles the Biden plan by allocating \$299 billion for these two important segments. The remaining money would be spent on transit, rail, airports, water projects and broadband. It does lack details on how the money would be raised for these allocations beyond references to electric cars and re-purposing unspent funds. It does, however, specifically oppose rolling back the 2017 GOP tax cuts or adding to the National Debt.

It is no secret that Republicans are concerned about all the potential Green New Deal provisions that will likely be incorporated into the Democrats plan. But as they say in Washington, D.C., this Republican bill is DOA or dead-on arrival, with Democrats controlling the White House and both chambers of Congress.

The PRO Act: Down to Three

Last week, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), arguably the most conservative member of the Democrat party in the Senate, signaled that he is now supporting the passage of the PRO Act. This is a slight reversal as the Senator recently has expressed some concerns over the legislation. As you know, the PRO Act is the anti-business legislation that will ultimately eliminate independent contractors and an absolute union wish-list.

This legislation is both anti-business and anti-worker, as it takes what does not work in California (AB5) and makes it national policy. Its passage would be particularly devastating to many industries and businesses. This includes 3PLs who heavily utilize motor carriers and independent sales agents.

With the news of Senator Manchin, it leaves three Democrat Senators that are holding back the majority from moving forward on this dangerous legislation. These include both Arizona Senators Krysten Sinema and Mark Kelly and Virginia Senator Mark Warner. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said that if he could garner 50 co-sponsors, he would bring it to the floor for a vote. Additionally, the two Senators from Alaska have not publicly made their positions known. Alaska is a very heavy union state that relies upon their jobs and support.

TIA Government Affairs looks forward to speaking with these remaining three Senators and advocating for the strong opposition of this devastating legislation.

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