



TIA ON THE HILL

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



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TIA Holds 1st Policy Committee Meeting

On Wednesday, May 5th, the TIA Policy Committee met for the first time with the goal and intention of increasing awareness of the Association on Capitol Hill, being a unified source for decision-makers, raising awareness of the industry and increase value for members and implant a cohesive policy strategy that reaches across all sizes of TIA Members.

The Committee outlined several initiatives to begin work on, including:

- Review of the TIA Committees and their value;
- Review of the TIA Mission and Vision statement;
- Examination of the current Policy positions;
- Development of a unified voice and message for the Association; and
- Increased presence on Capitol Hill and awareness amongst Members of Congress and their staff.

The TIA Policy Committee is comprised of members of the TIA Executive Committee, the Chairman of the four Conference Committees representing the different modes of transportation, the Chairman of the TIAPAC and representatives from large, medium and small TIA Members to hear perspectives from all sides of the membership.

If you have any question, please contact advocacy@tianet.org.

Chairman DeFazio set to address TIA Annual Conference Next Week



On May 11th, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-4th/OR) will be providing a keynote address to the roughly 400 attendees at the 2021 TIA Annual Conference being delivered virtually. Chairman DeFazio will be speaking about President Biden's plan for addressing our nation's infrastructure challenges and Congress' role in developing a Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill, with the FAST Act set to expire again on September 30, 2021.

President Biden's American Jobs Plan is a \$2.2 trillion package focused on physical infrastructure needs and projects, as well as goals favored by his Administration. This will be a tremendous lift for the Administration and Chairman DeFazio will be on the forefront working to achieve this goal and pass the American Jobs Plan.

"TIA is honored to have Chairman DeFazio join us at the virtual Annual Conference this year. Chairman DeFazio is one of the most important players in Washington, DC right now in terms of transportation issues, and TIA thanks for him for spending time addressing our members and supporting several initiatives of ours over the years," stated Chris Burroughs, Vice President of Government Affairs for TIA.

Chairman DeFazio is set to speak on Tuesday, May 11th at 11:00 AM EST, at the opening session of the Annual Conference. For more information about the Conference, please visit www.tianet.org.

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IC Rules Finally Withdrawn

With no surprise to anyone following the regulatory events of the last six months, the Biden Administration has pulled the plug on a major Trump initiative. Last week the Wages and Hours Division of the Department of Labor withdrew the Independent Contractor Rule that was started under President Trump and delayed under President Biden. The Department did not indicate how they would move forward with millions of independent contractors (IC). This move is almost a nod to Congressional Democrats to move forward with their prized "PRO Act." This bill is a litany of bad ideas jammed packed into a piece of legislation that has a slim chance of making to the president's desk as the procedural rules remain its only barrier. Only three Senators are the current hold outs that is keeping the Senate from voting on this legislation. The pressure is mounting for Senate Democrats to pass the bill, by any means necessary.

TIA has met with all three members of the Senate who have not publicly supported the legislation. Additionally, the 9th circuit has recently ruled that there is no exception for motor carriers under the ABC test of A.B. 5, the draconian bill from California which forces employee status and places the burden for proving IC status on individuals' workers. This sets up a Supreme Court fight in the near future to determine the strength of the separation between employee and IC status.

TIA is strongly in opposition to the PRO Act and has acted accordingly. While being mindful of current legislative priorities, we have continued our outreach to ensure our members voice is heard on this issue.

MCSSS: Problem Solvers Caucus

TIA Government Affairs sees a path forward on our Carrier Selection legislation through a powerful House Caucus known as the Problem Solvers Caucus. This bi-partisan group of Congressmen and women are some of the most action oriented sitting Members of Congress. This path forward became apparent last Congress when Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) co-sponsored our legislation. Here is what needs to happen: First we need a Republican and Democrat to sponsor the bill internally, within the caucus. Next, we need 70% of caucus members or more to support the legislation. If we can complete these action items, this legislation will garner more support and have a higher percent chance of passage.

The Committee vote for this legislation is expected around May 25th, so we hope to have a formal endorsement by that time. These processes are very fluid, so we continue to be monitoring multiple avenues for a path forward on this bill.

Motor carrier selection legislation continues to be our top priority bill. TIA will seek its passage through the traditional amendment and markup process in addition to our Problem Solvers Caucus route.

