



TIA ON THE HILL

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



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TIA Advocacy: Making a Difference

Last week, TIA Member Russell Leo, CTB, President & CEO of RLS Logistics and Chris Burroughs, VP of Government Affairs for TIA met with Congressman Jeff Van Drew (R-2nd/NJ) in-district at Cape May, NJ. This event was part of a political fundraiser to support Congressman Van Drew for his efforts on advancing top legislative priorities for TIA and the 3PL Association. Congressman Van Drew has been a leader on moving the Motor Carrier Safety Selection Standard (MCSSS) through Congress, and we thank him for his support.

Additionally, the personal time with Congressman Van Drew gave Russell a chance to speak about this company and their 200+ employees and the great work that RLS Logistics is doing the cold storage and logistics arenas.

These events makes a huge difference to our advocacy efforts and would not be possible without a Political Action Committee and an active membership base. As part of our long-term strategy goals within TIA, we are working to make new relationships with lawmakers and solidify our current ones.

If you would like to get more involved with TIA Advocacy efforts please contact advocacy@tianet.org for more information.

TIA Hits the Road in Support of Independent Contractors



TIA took to the road last week to show support for the Republican candidate for Governor in the state of New Jersey, Jack M. Ciattarelli. The event was brought to the attention of TIA by multiple members who are focused on preserving the independent contractor model, a relationship that is as American as apple pie. Today, our members are entering contracts all over the country with carriers large and small alike, from Washington State to the Coast of Florida. These contracts vary all the time in price, similar to a stock market. The price is based on supply and demand. These entities are not employees; they operate for multiple companies in a contracting capacity.

Pictured: TIA Member John Knellenberger, Esq. US1 Industries, Republican Gubernatorial Candidate for new Jersey Governor Jack Ciattarelli and Scott Marks, Government Affairs Manager for TIA.

Jack understands this. In his remarks to the private group, he made clear he is a business-minded, common-sense candidate that will develop policies to bring New Jersey roaring back as a key state in the nations economy.

New Jersey is home to dozens of TIA members all of who utilize and depend on independent contractors both internally and externally. Another aspect of the independent contractor model is a robust internal sales force that benefits from the freedoms that come with non-employment status.

There has been a recent trend in state legislatures to blur the lines between an employee and an independent contractor. Just a few months ago, in early 2021, a Washington State Committee took up a measure regarding this very subject. The legislation was simple, it said a broker is responsible for the broker, and a carrier is responsible for the carrier. This failed to pass.

TIA will continue to watch policies like those in Washington State. We will continue to back candidates for all offices that support policies that conserve our business models for the simple reason, they are pro carrier and pro broker.

TIA Looking to Move C-TPAT Through Congress

TIA-backed C-TPAT legislation, S. 2322, the “C-TPAT Pilot Program Act” is still gaining support. Last week TIA met with multiple members of Congress, both in the Senate and House of Representatives. Day after Day TIA sees that lawmakers of both parties and all ideologies are not only supportive of the remedy but confused by the lack of attention to the problem and how this came to be from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). TIA has long inquired from Customs and Border Protection as to how our membership base was left out of this national security issue.

The current state of play includes a Senate bill with a great bi-partisan coalition. Two Democrats and two Republicans sponsor the legislation, we have more members of Congress considering following suit and sponsoring as well, including Senators Durbin (D-IL) and Grassley (R-IL). Additionally, TIA has begun the process of finding a House companion bill to show universal support. Having a companion bill is helpful because it opens up twice as many opportunities to attach your piece of legislation onto a larger package. In the coming weeks, we will build up the educational profile of C-TPAT and how TIA members have been neglected and discriminated against for 15 years. Being looked over and bypassed for C-TPAT certification. Our supported bill, S. 2322 will be a major aspect of our 2021 3PL Policy Forum.

Bi-partisan Infrastructure Bill Nears Passing the Senate

Surface Transportation Reauthorization is now fully underway on the Senate Floor. Debates and amendments are happening through the weekend after a deal brokedown on Thursday evening following a controversial amendment that treats crypto-brokers the same as traditional stock-brokers as it relates to reporting requirements. The House of Representatives is on recess for a whopping seven weeks. When the House returns, they will take action on the traditional infrastructure only if legislation that focuses on the expanded definition of infrastructure is ready as per House leadership. The human infrastructure will carry with it issues like childcare, green energy, healthcare, paid leave, and other issues that are important but have traditionally been outside the scope of what the industry considers infrastructure.

Through the amendment process, TIA’s secured language was left untouched and unphased. These three sections include:

- Review of the FMCSA’s Consumer Complaint Database
- Truck driver apprenticeship pilot program
- Clarifying and penalties for illicit dispatch services under the definition of a Bona Fide agent.

TIA supports the legislation when and if it includes these three aforementioned provisions, unfortunately, the bill is still flawed despite huge investments in the infrastructure of our country. The carrier selection process and the issues that are attached to this remain unsolved. Right now, our members all over the country are selecting carriers with shaky hands and no confidence. The fact is that many of you are second-guessing the federal government during carrier selection, forced to utilize “unrated carriers” and no backstop of a federal checklist to ensure your selecting the safest carrier by Federal standards.

This is a systematic failure of both Congress and the Executive branch. It is inexcusable that Congressional and agency leadership would cave to party politics and special interest at the expense of the entirety of the supply chain. TIA will continue to advocate for the inclusion of language to fix these egregious abuses. At this writing, the path forward looks positive for the bi-partisan negotiated deal.

The group needs just 10 Republicans to join with all 50 Democrats to move forward with a final vote.