



TIA ON THE HILL

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



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TIA President & CEO to Testify Before Congress

This Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 10:30 AM EST, TIA President & CEO Anne Reinke will be testifying before the full House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The oversight hearing entitled, "Industry and Labor Perspectives: A Further Look at North American Supply Chain Challenges." Anne will be one of five witnesses, including representatives from the LA-Long Beach Ports, ATA, AAR, and the Labor Unions.

TIA is thrilled to have this opportunity to share our member's views and perspectives on the supply chain disruptions and speak about potential actions that could be taken at the state and federal levels that could help alleviate the crisis.

TIA President & CEO Anne Reinke said this about the hearing, "I am truly honored to represent our members before the T&I Committee this week to discuss the supply chain. Our members are some of the most pragmatic business minded individuals in the supply chain and our comments will be fact based and identifying solutions to address the supply chain crisis."

The hearing will be held virtually and can be viewed on the House T&I Committee website by visiting: www.transportation.house.gov.

TIA Members Discuss the Vaccine Mandate

TIA brought together two of its Committees (Operations and Government Freight) this week to discuss a topic that businesses are reeling with because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the vaccine mandate. The conversation was robust as members of the joint call balanced the needs of mitigating the pandemic with personal responsibility and supply chain needs. The joint committee decided that TIA would not take position on the vaccine mandate unless the Department of Labor changed course from their public comments and moved forward with a vaccine mandate for the truck driving community. Last week Labor Secretary Marty Walsh hinted at the decision that truck drivers would be exempt from OSHA's 100-person emergency vaccine mandate.

TIA believes any such mandate would be crippling to the economy. Only if this decision moved forward would TIA likely step in with an organizational position. TIA will continue to track three major vaccine mandates, stemming from OSHA, GSA, and DOD.

Rep. Tracey Mann Introduces TRANSPORT Act

Congressman Tracey Mann (R-KS) has introduced new legislation that would push back on some of the policies that got us to where we are today as it relates to the supply chain backup. Congressman Mann represents the first district of Kansas, he previously served as Lt. Governor of Kansas and is in his first term as a Congressman.

The bill, H.R. 5846, the "Truckers Responding At National Shipping Ports Overcoming Retail Turmoil Act" or "TRANSPORT Act." The bill would essentially repurpose leftover CARES money to funnel it into supporting carriers and the movement of goods across the country during a time of crisis. Significantly, any recipient of the funds may operate in any state during the covered period, this includes California which has picked winners and losers at the port-based upon union membership. This will be available for use during a state of emergency or major port congestion.

The TIA Highway Committee will be vetting the legislation in the coming days and announce a decision if the Association should support or not.

Call to Action: C-TPAT Heads to Senate Floor

Two weeks ago you saw that TIA's signature C-TPAT legislation is now before the full Senate as it has passed out of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. This was a major win for TIA as not a single Senator objected to the vote.

The Bill now goes to the entire Senate for consideration. This is where we need your help. Now is the time to get in touch with your Senator and let your voice be heard about the business you have lost due to CBP's interpretation of C-TPAT. As you know, since its rollout, TIA members have been left out of the national security program essentially putting your business at a competitive disadvantage.

We ask that you reach out and let TIA know you want to help move this legislation forward. We will connect you with your Senator or House Member to ensure your message gets across.

Contact advocacy@tianet.org with further questions or to get involved.