



TIA ON THE HILL

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



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House Approves Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021

Last week the House of Representatives voted 364-60 to support Reps. John Garamendi (D-CA) and Dusty Johnson (R-SD) signature legislation, H.R. 4996, the “Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021.” TIA was proud to support this important legislation and actively lobbied for its passage. The legislation would overhaul our ocean shipping laws; the first time this has been done in more than 20 years.

The ocean freight system has seen huge technological advances since the last update and our laws should reflect this. There is no Senate companion bill as of this writing, but TIA will continue to track the legislation and advocate for its passage. Vice-President of Government Affairs Burroughs said the following regarding House passage “TIA awaits the final passage of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act to produce results for supply chain stakeholders and the American people. I applaud the effort of Representatives Garamendi and Johnson for their tremendous bi-partisan effort.”

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The Specifically, the bill does three major changes that impact our members:

- The legislation would enforce into Federal law the recent interpretive rule on demurrage and detention fees. In addition, the legislation calls for additional rulemakings to establish rules prohibiting common carriers and marine terminal operators from utilizing unreasonable demurrage and detention fees. In recent years, we have seen these fees go from an incentivizing measure to a profiting scheme. Ocean carriers have been for years taking advantage of a system that allows them and marine terminal operators to bill shippers and carriers relentlessly. In some cases, the fees are added at no fault of the carrier with bottlenecks, traffic conditions, and a labor shortage impacting their schedules.
- TIA members also saw an opportunity to even the playfields, by banning retaliatory practices the legislation will hopefully stop the practice of ocean carriers selecting winners and losers as it relates to capacity and ocean freight.
- The bill will also add to the list of entities that are included in the National Shipper Advisory Committee to include Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders which are tied to our membership base.

If there are any questions on this legislation, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you.

TIA Holds Virtual Meeting with VA State Senator

Last week members of TIA from the Commonwealth of Virginia met with State Senator Monty Mason (D-1st) about the state's priorities for transportation and infrastructure. The Senator provided some excellent remarks and was eager to hear from TIA members about how the Commonwealth could help alleviate the supply chain crisis.

There was discussion about the supply crisis and the Port of Virginia and the great work they are doing there, thanks in large part to the automation implemented over the years. Additionally, the Senator mentioned he supported independent contractors and would not support any attempts to remove carriers or ICs from the marketplace especially during a national pandemic.

Overall it was a great discussion and served as a positive step for the Association, as we look to increase our state advocacy efforts by utilizing our local members and building strong relationships with State elected officials to better serve our member's interest.

Updates from TIA's Policy Committees

TIA is excited to rollout two major updates coming from our policy Committees. First, I wanted to provide you with an update relating to the vaccine mandate for Federal Contractors. The U.S. District Court for Southern Georgia has halted enforcement of the vaccine mandate for Federal contractors. The Executive Order, which was signed Sept 9, 2021 likely extends past the President's authority as it relates to procurement and contracting the Judge says. The Federal government mandated that any entities which partner and contract with the Government must certify its business is fully vaccinated.

TIA has been tracking three major vaccine mandates that the current administration has rolled out as part of their effort to end the pandemic. We will keep you posted on these efforts and subsequent court action.

Secondly, TIA is starting to solicit feedback regarding an Air freight Framework. This would be a TIA product that members utilize to learn more about the Airfreight industry and consider expanding their business in this niche market. In the past, TIA has worked on frameworks ranging from "Doing Business in Canada" to TIA's landmark framework "Carrier Selection Framework."

If you would like to help formulate this framework, please do not hesitate to reach out to me for more information on this.



TIA Member Jim Becker, CEO of Becker Logistics enjoying this TIAPAC Holiday gift for being a Gold level or above donor. Southern Grit cookbook and a custom TIAPAC BBQ set. Thanks for sharing Jim!