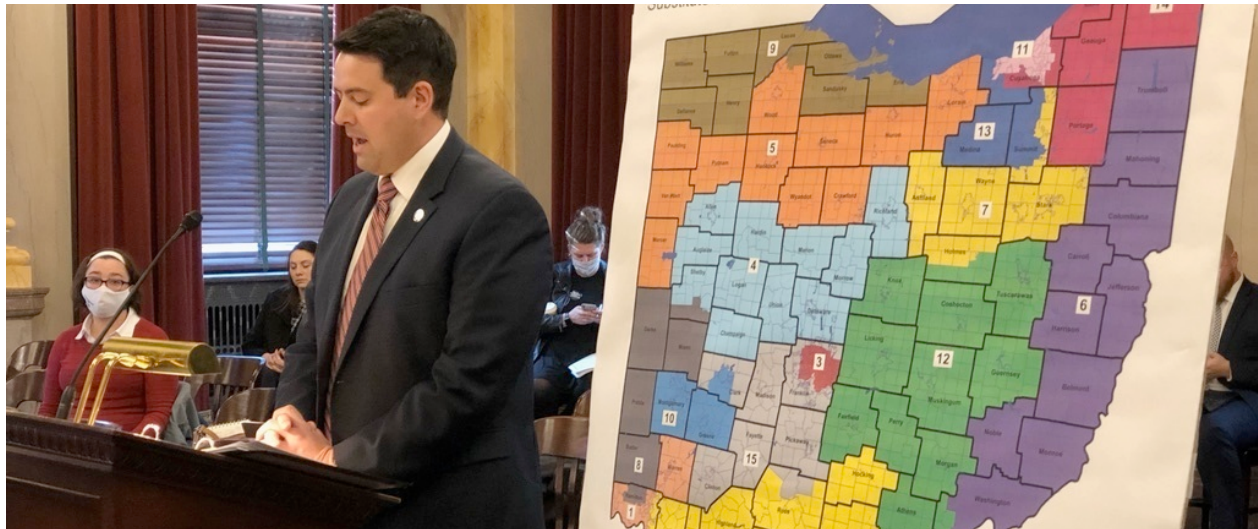




TIA ON THE HILL

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



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Redistricting: Long-Term Impacts

Every 10-years, all 50 states redraw their political lines, this process is known as redistricting and the process takes months to complete and is full of political gamesmanship, court challenges, and a headache for Members of Congress, states, and officials. The results of the redistricting process mold the balance of power for years to come in the U.S. Congress and potentially could swing which political party controls the U.S. House of Representatives.

The process is currently working its way through each states procedures and we will not know the final maps in a lot of states for weeks and potential a few months leading up to the 2022 midterm elections. Based on the official counts of the 2020 census, California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia will each lose one seat, while Colorado, Florida, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon will each gain one seat, and Texas will gain two seats.

Even though they are each losing a congressional seat, states like California and Illinois are in line for a major boost for the Democratic party based on the lines that have been drawn during the redistricting process. In California there are currently 53 congressional districts, with Republicans only holding 10 of those seats. Under the new map, which was redrawn by an independent non- partisan process threatens a few of the remaining few Republicans in the state which more competitive districts.

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For example, the new California 3 rd district (which is now the 4 th district) is currently held by Congressman Tom McClintock (R-CA). The district was previously a Republican +10 district, and now under the map basically becomes a dead heat at Republican +1.9.

As we have been examining the data throughout the country to see how it affects close TIA allies and races in general, one race is glaring in terms of the swing. In Maryland where there are 8 congressional districts with Democrats controlling 7 of them. Congressman Andy Harris (R-1 st /MD) remains the only serving Republican. Under the old map Congressman Harris enjoyed a Republican +20 advantage thanks to the Eastern Shore of Maryland where he represented, where several TIA Members are located. Under the new map the 1 st district swings to a Democrat +0.6 advantage. That is a huge swing as the Democrat controlled process in Maryland seeks to get rid of the sole Republican Member.

This process known as gerrymandering happens all over the country in red states and in blue states, and to be clear we are not advocating for either party or process, but keeping a close eye on the process, as it truly will have implications on the balance of power in Congress.

TIA Makes Major Push with PSC on H.R. 3042

In 2017, Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle launched the Problem Solvers Caucus that is equally divided between Democrats and Republicans, who are committed to finding common ground on many of the key issues facing the nation. The Caucus was founded and Co-Chaired by Rep. Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Fitzpatrick (R-PA), with the aim of create a durable bloc that champions ideas that appeal to a broad spectrum of the American people. The Problem Solvers Caucus list key issues on the website to include; COVID-19 recovery and contingency planning, infrastructure, health care, immigration, criminal justice reform, rules reform, and gun & school safety.

As TIA has continued to advocate for H.R. 3042, the “Motor Carrier Safety Selection Standard Act of 2021,” which currently has 15 co-sponsors (8 Republicans and 7 Democrats), the focus shifts in the short-term to obtaining the official endorsement of the Problem Solvers Caucus. This 53 Member Caucus would be a huge step to advance our legislative goals in getting H.R. 3042 signed into law. Please stay tuned for more details soon, as TIA is in the midst of working this legislation through the Caucus and working overtime to secure their endorsement. To get involved with our grassroots political advocacy efforts, please contact advocacy@tianet.org.

FMC Holds Information and Trends Discussion

Last week, the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) hosted a round table discussion with key shipping industry stakeholders. The event was hosted by FMC Commissioner Carl Bentzel. The purpose of this meeting was a fact-finding and data trend mission, where Commissioner Bentzel was looking for stakeholders to provide updates on the latest trends and feedback that they have heard as industry stakeholders. The guest ranged from large shippers to NVOCCs and of course TIA was represented as well.

Some of the issues that were addressed were not new to TIA, and included the ongoing chassis shortage, capacity shortage on the seas and our nation's highways, and information sharing to be efficient and organized at all levels in the supply chain even at an international level. The biggest tool these companies could use more of is data points, both accurately and timely.

The data points that the stakeholders noted were important, specifically, exporters included: timely information, sailing dates, early return dates, first available shipping container, and many more. This falls in line with what TIA President and CEO Anne Reinke noted during her November testimony before the House T&I Committee, more information sharing and collaboration within the supply chain.

Senate Homeland Security Committee Hearing on Ports

Last week the House Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations held an oversight hearing entitled, "Assessing the State of America's Seaports." The hearing focused on one theme that rose above the rest: the labor shortage facing this country.

After two years of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and billions of dollars being poured into programs, there is little questioning why our country is facing employment gaps in key industries. Witnesses included representatives from states with major ports like Louisiana, California, and Virginia. The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is facing and combating a major threat right now, cyber-attacks. An onslaught of attacks currently chips away at our nation's ports. A witness called for upgrades in new IT facilities and the immediate stop of outsourcing inspection duty to non CBP staff due to lack of workers. The individuals tasked with this job lack the training and experience that CBP officers in order to properly inspect and deter attacks. Port budgets are tight right now the witnesses explained, one tool they have is to bring back a fully funded Port Security Grant Program.

TIA sees the ports as invaluable to our members. We have weighed in on legislation that empowers ports via the Federal Maritime Commission. We continue the situation and all potential solutions.