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TIA ON THE HILL

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



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Congressional Hearings This Week

TIA monitored two major hearings last week. The first committee hearing was in our jurisdiction, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing entitled "The Road Ahead for Automated Vehicle." This is an important conversation that is happening all over the country both in the commercial space and personal use. It is important that the regulatory state of autonomous vehicles (AV) keeps up with the quickly changing and growing private sector. TIA has an important voice in this conversation as our members are a huge user of carriers, any conversation regarding freight and the movement of goods, regardless of who or who isn't behind the wheel, must involve freight brokers.

The conversation was met with some pushback from the unions as they believe AV means replacing workers in their role such as truck drivers, bus drivers, and the many support staff that go along with traditional Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMV). Cities and states are already implementing AV at the local level, using state and local guidance. Rep. Rick Crawford (R-1 st /AR) made the point that 18-year-old men and women can go overseas to drive military vehicles but cannot cross state lines to deliver goods and freight. Crawford followed up by inquiring about how AV impacts the driver shortage that our country faces. On the other side of the aisle, Congresswoman Julia Brownley (D-26 th /CA) focused on too much reliance on AV can be deadly, we must not replace a CMV driver. The Congresswoman noted that there are 9.1 AV deaths per million miles versus the traditional vehicle which is 4.1 deaths per million miles.

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In a different Congressional hearing, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-12 th /FL) mentioned TIA's letter written to Department of Homeland Secretary Mayorkas on the new cross border vaccine mandate for foreign national truck drivers. In his line of question, the Congressman read off of the letter for the record. In the hearing entitled, "Pandemic Profiteers: Legislating to Stop Corporate Price Gouging," the Republicans focused less on price gouging but more on inflation that is impacting all Americans and is being brought on by Biden's policies.

C-TPAT Pilot-Program Inches Closer to House Bill

We are one step closer to having a House companion bill of the TIA supported C-TPAT Pilot Program legislation. If you remember, in the Senate we have a great bill, S.2322 with bi-partisan sponsors Senators Cornyn, Menendez, Scott (SC), and Carper. The Senate bill has also already been passed out of Committee and is awaiting a Unanimous Consent vote (this essentially means it's going to pass unless someone flags the bill). The new House draft has made its way from Legislative Council back to the Congressional office and the bill will be introduced by the end of the month. We are in a great position on the legislation given these major updates. We will soon be lining up other congressional offices to join in the official release of the bill.

TIA continues to stress to lawmakers, there is no better time to focus on remedies in the supply chain than now. The American people, the business community, and supply chain stakeholders are all focused on creating a more efficient process from getting freight from the manufacturer to its end destination. If you have questions on ways to get involved in the C-TPAT advocacy efforts, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at advocacy@tianet.org.



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Keep an Eye Out for a Survey from the TIA Policy Committee

This week, the TIA Policy Committee chaired by Mark Christos of Matson Logistics will be circulating a survey out to the entire membership to garner feedback on the Association's top legislative and regulatory priorities.

The Policy Committee has been working over the past few months on defining the pillars of advocacy and how policy positions that are developed by TIA Members at the Committee level should be evaluated and addressed with the TIA Board of Directors. The next step for the Committee was to start looking at policy positions on the books and potential positions that should be considered.

Over the last two meetings, the Committee has met and defined around 15-20 policy positions and defined those based on priority status and the likelihood of movement in 2022. This information will be calculated and provide the TIA Government Affairs team with a strategy and game plan on which priorities, the Association should focus their attention on.

The next step and hence the survey that is about to be sent out this week, and is to get feedback from the entire TIA Membership. The Board of Directors led by Chairman Mike Riccio has a vision and plan to provide more transparency to the membership on the key issues that are industry is facing and get as many members involved in the process as possible. This is an important step to ensure that members remain active in the Association and the grassroots advocacy efforts and provide them with a better ROI on membership with this amazing organization.

We hope everyone will take the brief survey and we truly appreciate your membership and feedback on this important matter.

Southern California ports face unprecedented backlog



Source: Marine Exchange of Southern California Annette Choi / POLITICO