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TIA ON THE HILL

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



IN THIS ISSUE

IMPROVEMENTS TO NCCDB COMING SOON

DOT RELEASES SUPPLY CHAIN ASSESSMENT

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS THIS WEEK

WORLD EV SALES DOUBLED LED BY CHINA: DATA POINT

Improvements to NCCDB Coming Soon

On February 22, 2022, the Federal Register rolled out a series of notices that involve our membership. Notably, a notice that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will undertake a full review and overhaul of the National Consumer Complaint Database (NCCDB). Mentioning TIA by name, the notice confirmed that the FMCSA will change the design of the website to make it easier for brokers to file complaints against bad actors in the supply chain, especially those companies that illegally double broker freight.

This is a massive victory for TIA and our members. It comes after TIA filed official comments on October 26, 2021, for the FMCSA to implement the laws on the books and to make the NCCDB more user-friendly toward brokers. They did just that, giving TIA a major regulatory victory.

TIA members have complained that the current setup of the website leaves out brokers or at a minimum makes it extremely difficult to file a complaint. The new website design will allow our members to easily report bad actors to the FMCSA, whether that be brokers, carriers, or any other entities that they work with.

We have heard of rampant fraud throughout the pandemic and this change in the NCCDB is just one of several steps that will hopefully alleviate some of these fraudulent activities in the marketplace.

DOT Releases Supply Chain Assessment

Last week, the Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg released a report entitled: "Supply Chain Assessment of the Transportation Industrial Base: Freight and Logistics." The assessment identifies several key policy positions and priorities from the Biden Administration to help alleviate the supply chain crisis. As the report notes, "The Administration has taken aggressive action to respond to supply chain disruptions stemming from the current pandemic. But even before these disruptions worsened over the course of the past year, the President issued Executive Order 140171 calling for a review of the transportation and logistics industrial base. These recommendations are meant not only to respond to the current disruptions, but to stand the test of time by building supply chains resilient to future disruptions, in whatever form they take."

The recommended policy responses described in detail in this report spotlight a range of actions that DOT envisions as supporting a resilient 21st-century freight and logistics supply chain for America, including:

- Investing in freight infrastructure, such as ports, bridges, and railroads, to enhance capacity and connectivity.
- Providing technical assistance to support the planning and coordination of freight investments and operations and supporting the workers employed in this sector.
- Improving data and research into supply chain performance.
- Strengthening and streamlining governance to improve efficiency, build the workforce, increase competitiveness, and reduce safety and environmental risks.
- Partnering with stakeholders across the supply chain, including coordination with both the public and private sector.

The report calls for a robust communication strategy between the Administration and industry stakeholders and the public, including third-party logistics providers. TIA will continue to work with the Administration to be the voice of the entire logistics industry and do our part of alleviate the supply chain disruption, while advancing our joint goals.



State of the Union Address this Week

This week President Biden is set to give his annual State of the Union address to Congress on Tuesday night. This address comes less than a year from his first address to the joint session of Congress in April 2021. At the speech last year President Biden laid out a couple of infrastructure priorities that he talked up, including replacing 100% of lead pipes in the U.S. and installing 500,000 EV charging stations. Both priorities are in progress and likely to be completed by 2030.

What does the 2022 State of the Union address hold for infrastructure? President Biden and Congress were able to come together and pass a bipartisan infrastructure package that provides the highest levels of funding for our nation's projects, and TIA has heard directly from FMCSA on how they plan to use those funds, including beefing up enforcement.

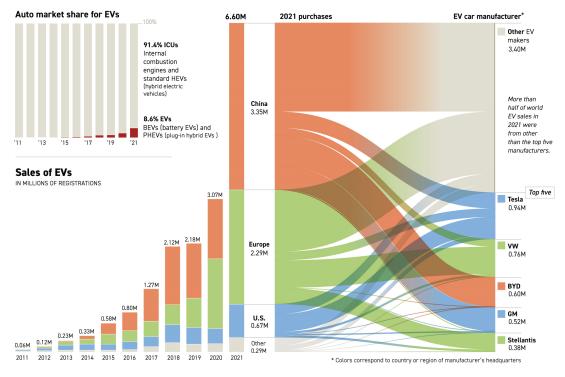
I will guess that infrastructure and the supply chain will be the main talking point as the Administration continues to deal with a major disruption with the supply chain, which is only exacerbated with the latest self-inflicted would of mandating a vaccine mandate on those non-U.S. citizens entering the country. TIA has been a leading voice on this issue and President and CEO Anne Reinke has appeared on Fox News and CNN to speak about the impacts on our members and the supply chain.



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Led by Chinese consumers, world EV sales more than doubled in 2021

China's drivers bought more electric cars in 2021 than the entire world purchased in 2020, and nearly a quarter of China's new EVs came from American manufacturers, according to the International Energy Agency. GM, which only sold about 25,000 EVs in the U.S., sold nearly 20 times that amount to China. Tesla is the world's top manufacturer of EVs, contributing more than half of U.S. sales.



Source: International Energy Agency

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