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## TIA ON THE HILL

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



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## TIA Annual Conference this Week!

This week, TIA is thrilled to have over 1,400 attendees attending the TIA 2022 Capital Ideas Conference & Exhibition in San Diego, California.

If you are attending the Conference, the TIA Government Affairs department would like to flag a couple of events that you should not miss! First, is our annual TIA Government Affairs general session, where we welcome back Mr. Scott Jennings who is an American writer, political commentator and contributor on CNN. Mr. Jennings previously served as Special Assistant to President George W. Bush and advisor to then Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Mr. Jennings will be providing the latest political commentary from around the country on what are the keys issues facing Americans, including local issues like rising gas prices and inflation but also world issues like the war in Ukraine.

Additionally, Mr. Jennings will be handicapping the 2022 midterm elections and examining the key races that will ultimately determine the which political party controls the House and Senate. Finally, he will share his thoughts on the 2024 Presidential race and who the candidates might be. You do not want to miss this session.

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Secondly, make sure you check your schedules for the times for the TIA Learning Labs because at 12:30 PM PST on Thursday, TIA's Vice President of Government Affairs Chris Burroughs will be giving a brief 30-minute update on the key legislative and regulatory issues that TIA is tracking and advocating on behalf of.

Finally, please reach out to a member of the TIA Government Affairs team to learn more about the Annual TIAPAC event in San Diego. This exclusive event supports the TIAPAC and our efforts on Capitol Hill. The venue is only minutes from the hotel and takes place Wednesday night from 9:00 PM PST - 11:00 PM PST.

## **President Releases His Budget Proposal**

The President released his budget last week, and while largely seen as a messaging tool, it is important to see firsthand where the President's priorities are. The Budget is a message to Congress outlining the needs of the President's focus points. However, the President's budget is just a call for action to Congress, it does not actually fill the accounts of the Departments of the Government, which resides mostly with the Appropriations Committees of Congress. The Department of Transportation has recently become a focal point for Congress as they passed a massive \$1.2 bi-partisan Infrastructure Bill. TIA supported and advocated for the passage of this legislation, which included several victories for the Association.

Inside the President's budget: President Biden request a 7.5% increase in his budget compared to what Congress enacted just a few weeks ago during the FY22 appropriations process. Regarding The Department of Transportation: President Biden is requesting \$26.8 billion in funding for the Fiscal Year 2023 a 6% increase in the amount enacted from 2021. In conjunction with the infrastructure bill, the budget includes \$78.4 billion in mandatory funds focused on repairing roads, bridges, and other traditional infrastructure needs. Part of these mandates will be a review of "dispatch services", a comprehensive update of the National Consumer Complaint Database, and the implementation of the 18-20 year old CMV driver pilot program.

TIA will continue to advocate for the appropriate implementation of these provisions.



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## TIA Continues Work on Unlawful Brokerage Activities

TIA continues to work with members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. These key Members of Congress are called appropriators due to their authority to fund the Federal Government. Our priority with these members continues to be slowing down the escalating incidents of unlawful brokerage activities and double brokering.

TIA has met with the following appropriators in Congress: Congressmen Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) and Mike Quigley (D-IL), in addition to Senators, John Boozman (R-AR), Mike Braun (R-IN), and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). The conversations are going very well, each of the following members is very receptive to the idea that this issue is already a violation of Federal Law under MAP-21 (P.L. 112-141). It was agreed to by the major stakeholders and has been on the books for 10+ years. The problem lies in the enforcement. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), the agency that houses jurisdiction over both carriers and brokers, fails to investigate and penalize any double brokering claims causing a huge backlog of issues and a message to the industry, "nothing will happen if you break the law." In discussions with FMCSA, there are currently over 80,000 complaints in the National Consumer Compliant Database that are broker related.

TIA is working diligently to push back on this. Through our advocacy efforts, we are working to secure a formal request from the appropriations Committee to combat this. If you have questions about this strategy or want to share your story about double brokering please do not hesitate to contact us.