



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



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Annual TIA Policy Forum

The 2022 TIA Policy Forum Fly-In was a success thanks to the 111 TIA members who traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate on behalf of their business, the industry and TIA. It was great getting to see everyone, and we look forward to making next year's even better.

Here are a few highlights from the 2022 Policy Forum:

We were able to meet with over 200 Members of Congress and educate these lawmakers on our industry and some of the challenges we face today. The feedback was very positive as we hit on things like cracking down on unlawful brokerage activities, supply-chain functionality and sustainability, and the PRO Act. Several Members of Congress committed to sending the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) a letter and/or a congressional hearing request regarding unlawful brokerage activities. Their support in holding FMCSA accountable will hopefully result in more enforcement of stopping these illegal practices. Our members were able to tell their Members of Congress about how the PRO Act would be detrimental to our industry.

The TIA Policy Forum affords TIA Members the opportunity to go around Capitol Hill and make their Members of Congress aware of the issues the 3PL industry faces and how they can impact the supply-chain and the American economy.

We will continue striving for action in the items discussed above, but your efforts laid the groundwork!

On behalf of all the staff of TIA, we appreciate those Members who sacrificed their time and money to come advocate on behalf of our industry to Congress. I am confident our voices were heard and that our efforts will prove fruitful in the future.

Trucking Industry Wins Legal Battle

A Federal judge sided with the trucking industry on Wednesday. In a lawsuit that aimed to overturn Rhode Island's tolls that applied only to out of state trucks, Judge William Smith ruled in favor of those trucks.

The decision was reached four years after the suit was originally filed by the American Trucking Associations, and seven years after the truck tolls were implemented by Rhode Island law makers. The intent of these tolls was to help fund road and bridge projects, but it simultaneously discouraged trucking routes throughout the state.

ATA announced the decision on Wednesday and hoped this decision will dissuade other states from pursuing similar projects. ATA, Cumberland farms Inc., M&M Transport Services Inc. and New England Motor Freight sued the state of Rhode Island because the "RhodeWorks" plan violates the Constitution's Commerce clause by discriminating against out of state entities to favor in state entities – or the interests of those. The latest attempt came in Connecticut where Gov. Ned Lamont threw the legislation out when it split Democratic legislators in the state assembly.

The state of Rhode Island can appeal the decision to a higher court, but toll collection will cease immediately regardless of further action. TIA will keep you updated on any further news regarding this case.

Senate Moves Forward in Funding Government

Congress is scheduled to pass a short-term government funding bill next week that would include billions of dollars for Ukraine but will leave out money for COVID or Monkeypox. The one hold-up could be Senator Manchin (D-WV) and his wishes for energy permitting.

It's still unclear if the temporary funding fix will include language to expedite approval of new energy projects. While the notion has bipartisan support, Republicans and Democrats are conflicted on the details, and time is quickly running out to reach an agreement.

The Senate expects to finish the stopgap spending bill first, which would buy Congress more time to make a deal for the rest of the fiscal year. Senate Majority Leader Schumer (D-NY) is obligated to attach Manchin's energy permits to the bill as this was their agreement to get the West Virginia Senator to approve of the Inflation Reduction Act. If passed, the stopgap bill would keep the government funded until December 16th. Manchin's provision would ease permitting rules within the energy sector, specifically for the fossil fuels industry. The other West Virginia Senator, Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) is in agreement with Manchin's provision but needs other Republicans to step up too who believe Manchin's provision does not go far enough in easing permitting restrictions. Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) are potential barriers to getting it done as Sanders is against the energy provision altogether and Kaine is concerned with its new pipelines stretching into Virginia.

Whether the energy provisions make it into the stopgap remains to be seen, but the government must be funded to avoid a shutdown. TIA will keep you updated with this matter.