

TRSA POLICY REVIEW & UPDATE— DEFENDING THE INDUSTRY IN WASHINGTON DC AND BEYOND

AS NOTED IN OUR COVER STORY (see pg. 18), TRSA had a banner year in 2019 on advocacy issues—from California microfiber legislation to uniform-rental deductions in Indiana and a return to the traditional definition of the Joint Employer Rule by the National Labor Relations Board. We're coming on strong again this year—as you'll see at this month's Legislative Conference on March 25–26 in Washington DC. Below we've outlined a series of issues that we're now confronting, not only in the United States, but also possibly in Canada as well, where TRSA will protect and defend the linen, uniform and facility services industry. In coming months, watch the “Policy Moves” department for updates on issues, including:



PFAS—TRSA and industry partners succeeded in stripping harmful language from the National Defense Authorization Act that would have regulated PFAS chemicals in industrial laundries. However, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 535 (247–159) as standalone legislation to broadly regulate PFAS chemicals. The legislation incorporates measures from 11 previous PFAS bills. This measure includes a number of provisions that would further regulate PFAS, including requiring PFAS to be covered under the hazardous-waste cleanup law. It also imposes a five-year moratorium on the development of new PFAS chemicals. The bill spells out new regulations as well for the production and cleanup of such toxic chemicals, thus requiring the EPA to regulate PFAS as air pollution under the Clean Air Act. In addition, the bill includes a provision outlining proper disposal for PFAS chemicals. The White house has threatened to veto the bill, which is awaiting action in the U.S. Senate.

CMS/HICPAC—TRSA is working to obtain a letter from the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) stating that reusable textiles are considered a best management practice. This is in response to an issue with the MD Anderson healthcare system in Houston moving to an all-disposable operating room. TRSA is also pursuing a seat on the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC).

INDIANA—Property Tax Reform: TRSA is trying to get language included in a piece of legislation to statutorily exempt rental inventory from personal property tax in Indiana. Historically, operators have taken a position that these items are exempt from property tax and the state hasn't challenged it. Some rental companies in Indiana are under audit and the third-party auditor for the counties is taking a position that the rental inventory is taxable. This could cost companies tens of thousands of dollars per plant annually.

CALIFORNIA—Microfiber/Microplastics legislation—Two separate pieces of legislation (AB 129, AB 1592) have been introduced, both of which would require commercial laundries to install filtration devices to remove 100% of microfibers from wastewater discharge; thus costing laundry operators hundreds of thousands of dollars. TRSA is fighting this legislation.

CLEAN SLATE INITIATIVE—TRSA is working with the California Prison Industry to establish a training program for current inmates to earn the CPLM certification to increase their options for jobs in the industry upon release. TRSA is also working to establish a training program for supervisors in prison laundries.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD REQUIREMENTS—The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is requiring delivery vehicles to have zero emissions by 2030. TRSA is pushing to extend the deadline to alleviate the costs to operators. CARB does have money to help offset the costs of transitioning vehicles.

NEW YORK—Incentives: TRSA is reviewing various incentives offered by the New York state and New York City governments by installing energy-saving resources and using different labor sectors. On the issue of Congestion Pricing, TRSA is pursuing efforts to get a pro-business pick for the New York Governor's Blue Ribbon panel, which is tasked with developing a congestion-pricing plan for downtown New York.

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