

Policy Moves

## Federal Legislation



### The EPA announced a significantly stricter standard for fine soot

**Background:** The new standard would lower the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) from 12 micrograms per cubic meter of air to 9 micrograms. If enacted, this would significantly increase the difficulty and cost for manufacturers to operate in the U.S. Some laundries, especially in the industrial sector, in “nonattainment” areas could find themselves unable to operate.

**Actions:** An analysis by Oxford Economics commissioned by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) found that this standard could cut GDP by nearly \$200 billion and cost up to 1 million jobs by 2031.

**Status:** TRSA has spoken out repeatedly against this stricter regulation and is calling on Congress to reverse it. Recently, TRSA joined a NAM lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule on fine soot.



### Changes to PFAS reporting requirements and supplier notifications for chemicals of special concern

**Background:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently passed a rule designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). This rule will create reporting requirements and potential cleanup actions. The EPA also issued National Primary Drinking Water regulations that set maximum contaminant levels for six PFAS compounds.

**Actions:** TRSA is engaging with Congress, the EPA, state and local policymakers, industry coalition partners and others. We hosted a June webinar with EPA officials to inform our members on the implications of recent regulation for our industry and to share information on future EPA efforts.

**Status:** Co-signed a letter expressing concern over the Hazardous Substance designation and requesting more time for public comment. TRSA drafted a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan requesting financial incentives to offset the costs of PFAS remediation. We are working with members of Congress to build a bipartisan coalition of sponsors.



### DOL overtime proposal

**Background:** The Department of Labor (DOL) has been in the rulemaking process to raise the minimum salary threshold under which workers must receive overtime. The rule will increase the minimum salary threshold from \$35,568 to \$43,888 in July, and then to \$58,656 in 2025. The threshold for highly compensated employees (HCEs) will jump from \$107,432 to \$132,964 in July, and then to \$151,164 in 2025. The rule also implements automatic updates to both thresholds every three years.

**Actions:** Employer organizations are considering litigation challenging the rule. TRSA is working with coalition members to file a request with the DOL to extend the implementation timeline.

**Status:** TRSA-signed letter submitted, requesting an extension of the comment period. The final rule was issued in late April.



### OSHA heat injury and illness Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)

**Background:** OSHA is in the rulemaking process for the first federal workplace heat standard that, if enacted, would affect approximately 36 million workers. In October of 2021, OSHA issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) for an Indoor and Outdoor Heat Illness Prevention Standard. On Aug. 30, OSHA published the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), beginning a 120-day comment period.

**Actions:** TRSA, in coordination with coalition partners, is developing and submitting comments to OSHA and monitoring the issue as the process moves forward.

**Status:** TRSA submitted comments to OSHA over concern with the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) process. TRSA is developing another set of comments to submit regarding the NPRM.



### Increase Supply of Reusable Healthcare PPE

**Background:** TRSA members supply, launder and maintain sustainable, reusable, hygienically clean and safe textiles including linens, uniforms, garments and personal protective equipment (PPE). If properly incentivized, the industry can promote supply-chain security, environmental sustainability, cost-savings and safety by increasing the share of reusable healthcare textiles (HCTs) in healthcare settings.

**Actions:**

- Highlighting the benefits of reusable HCTs.
- Working with the American Hospital Association to aid with adoption of reusable HCTs.

**Status:** **TRSA** helped build a bipartisan coalition in Congress to submit a letter to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. In response, the CDC is conducting a study of the benefits of reusable vs. single-use HCTs. A stakeholder workshop was held in early March. **TRSA** recommended several members to represent our industry on the panel. Released in June, the workshop proceedings highlight the benefits of reusables and the need for policy action to increase their use in healthcare settings. Meeting with federal and state policymakers to discuss the benefits of establishing a minimum-operating threshold of reusable hygienically clean HCTs.

## State Legislation



### California

**Background:** **TRSA** is playing both offense and defense in the California legislature. On defense, **TRSA** is fighting new versions of the microparticle filtration and plastic wrap bans, as well as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation.

**Actions:** **TRSA** is contacting legislators to protect and promote the linen, uniform and facility services industry. **TRSA** continuously monitors and proactively addresses new legislation that could impact our industry.

**Status:** The EPR legislation passed with an amendment that **TRSA** drafted and successfully pushed to exclude the rental side of operations.



### Illinois

**Background:** Illinois SB2727 would impose a microfiber-filtration requirement on washing machines, beginning Jan. 1, 2030.

**Actions:** Advocating for fair and balanced policy that does not place undue burdens on our industry and the communities we serve.

**Status:** This bill is awaiting committee action.



### New York

**Background:** **TRSA** is advocating for legislation that would require a 50% minimum operating threshold of reusable healthcare textiles in healthcare facilities. **TRSA** is working with legislators to reintroduce this bill in the next legislative session.

**TRSA** continues to oppose a congestion-pricing scheme that will cost deliveries an extra \$24-\$36 per trip into a high-traffic zone in Manhattan at or below 60<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Actions:**

- Engaging policymakers to advance **TRSA**'s goals.
- Held a "Hill Day" session in Albany on April 15-16 to educate policymakers and boost awareness of and support for our key issues.

**Status:** AB 6995/S8169 introduced in the New York Assembly and Senate by Assembly Member Septimo (D) and State Sen. Cleare (D).

The congestion-pricing program was indefinitely suspended. **TRSA** continues to advocate for program amendments and will take action if needed in the future.



### Kentucky

**Issue Background:** Recent regulations require our industry to pay both sales tax on their purchases and charge sales tax again on the services they provide to customers. This has led to a situation of double taxation or tax pyramiding, where in the Department of Revenue essentially charges sales taxes twice on the same items.

**Actions:** **TRSA** is meeting with policymakers to correct this double-taxation policy.

**Status:** **TRSA** and industry stakeholders are meeting with the Kentucky DOR to clarify and correct the double-tax.



### Wisconsin

**Issue Background:** A Wisconsin corporation may claim a corporate income/franchise tax credit of 7.5% of "qualified production activities income" each year, which includes manufacturing.

**Actions:**

- Hill Day in Madison
- Secured legislators for a bill to change the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes of the industry.
- Submitted legislative language for drafting.

**Status:** AB945 passed the Assembly Committee but didn't receive a vote this session. We expect the bill to be re-introduced in 2025 and hope to see it enacted next year. **TS**

The **TRSA 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Conference** takes place February 5-6, 2025 in Washington, DC.

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