

Policy Moves

Federal Initiatives



The EPA announces 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 nine micrograms. If enacted, this would significantly increase the difficulty and cost for manufacturers to operate in “nonattainment” areas. They and their industrial laundry partners could find themselves unable to operate due to these restrictions.

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 varieties of PFAS.

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 submitted a letter requesting an extension of the comment period.

Status: The final rule was issued in late April. TRSA is working with coalition members to file a request with the DOL to extend the implementation timeline.



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 2021, OSHA issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) for an Indoor and Outdoor Heat Illness Prevention Standard. On Aug. 30, 2024, OSHA published the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), beginning a 120-day comment period.

Actions: In coordination with coalition partners, TRSA is developing and submitting comments to OSHA to voice our concerns about the proposed rule.

Status: TRSA submitted comments to OSHA over concern with the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) process.



Increase supply of reusable health-care 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: 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.

Status: **TRSA** is meeting with federal and state policymakers to discuss the benefits of reusable HCTs, and advocating for policies to establish a minimum-operating threshold of reusable hygienically clean HCTs.

State Initiatives



California

Background: **TRSA** is playing both offense and defense in the California legislature. We are fighting new versions of the microparticle filtration and plastic-wrap bans, as well as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation. On offense, **TRSA** is pursuing opportunities to increase reusable textiles in healthcare settings.

Actions: **TRSA** is contacting legislators to protect and promote the linen, uniform and facility services 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: **TRSA** is advocating for fair and balanced policy that does not place undue burdens on our industry and the communities we serve.

Status: The bill died in committee last session, and **TRSA** is prepared to fight against a new version if reintroduced this year.



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 \$14.40-\$26.10 per trip into Manhattan's Central Business District at or below 60th Street.

Actions:

- **TRSA** is engaging policymakers to advance the industry's goals, including hosting **TRSA**-member site visits and "Hill Day" sessions in Albany to educate policymakers and boost awareness of and support for our key issues.
- **TRSA** filed a declaration of support for a lawsuit against the congestion pricing program.

Status: **TRSA** is working with legislators to reintroduce the reusables bill in the next legislative session.

TRSA continues to oppose the congestion pricing program as a whole, while advocating for price parity with cars and a per-day instead of per-trip fee if the policy advances.



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, wherein the Department of Revenue (DOR) essentially charges sales taxes twice on the same items.

Actions: **TRSA** and industry stakeholders are meeting with policymakers and advocating to correct this policy.

Status: **TRSA** is working with legislators and the DOR to introduce a bill 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," which includes manufacturing.

Actions: **TRSA** hosts "Hill Days" in Madison and facility tours with legislators. We have drafted legislative language and secured bill sponsors to change the industry's Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes.

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

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

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