

# IAAPA PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

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## **House Appropriations Committee Passes Bill with H-2B Cap Relief Language**

Today, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee passed the FY 2023 Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill with H-2B cap relief language and a commitment for a bipartisan group of lawmakers, industry, and unions to try to negotiate a permanent solution beginning in July.

During the debate, Rep. Pingree (D-ME) offered the amendment to allow for an extension of the cap on H2B visas (that were capped at 66,000 last year despite the demand for 136,000 visas). A variety of other elected officials supported the amendments as well including Subcommittee Chair Roybal-Allard (D-CA). This is a step in the right direction, and we will remain engaged in an effort to negotiate the best possible solution.

On the broader workforce development front, IAAPA continues to advocate for the following:

- Improving visa and immigration programs and policies in response to worker shortages through stable access to foreign labor markets using the H-2B and J-1 visa programs, and policy reform that provides consistent, reliable access to talent while protecting wages, working conditions, and furthering U.S. diplomacy objectives.
- Promoting career pathways in the travel and tourism industry through pre-employment training programs and regular stakeholder input to address impediments to attracting and retaining a stable workforce.
- Communicating career pathways and highlighting the travel and tourism industry as an economic engine for communities as well as an income generator throughout a workers' life cycle.

## **IAAPA Public Affairs Conference - Save The Date**

As a leader in the attractions industry, we invite you to attend the IAAPA Public Affairs Conference that will be held Sept. 21-22, 2022, in Washington, D.C. Get behind-the-scenes insights from public and private sector leaders about the state of the U.S. travel and tourism industry, legislative and regulatory issues impacting the attractions industry, 2022 federal midterm election projections, and more. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet with their elected officials on Capitol Hill. Watch your email next week for hotel and event registration details.

## **OSHA Proposes Workplace Injuries Digital Tracking Rule**

Today, IAAPA signed onto a Coalition for Workplace Safety (CWS) letter addressed to Doug Parker, Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor, in response to the OSHA Proposed Rule, Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses (87 Fed. Reg. 18528, March 30, 2022).

OSHA proposes to amend its regulation to require establishments with 100 or more employees in certain designated industries - including attractions - to electronically submit information from their OSHA Forms 300, 301, and 300A to OSHA once a year. Establishments with 20 or more employees in certain industries would continue to be required to electronically submit information from their OSHA Form 300A annual summary to OSHA once a year.

Our comments to OSHA address (1) concerns with duplicative record-keeping and reporting requirements; (2) concerns regarding OSHA's ability to appropriately manage this increased data collection; (3) continued concerns regarding confidentiality and protection of sensitive employer data; and (4) uncertainties in compliance resulting from OSHA's ever-changing record-keeping requirements. We are asking OSHA to consider these comments as they prepare to issue a final rule.

## **IAAPA North America Drone Task Force Convenes First Meeting**

The IAAPA North America Drone Task Force met for the first time last week. The purpose of the task force is to discuss and reach consensus on what strategies are needed to effectively influence Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to implement rules that establish a process enabling operators and proprietors of fixed site attractions to apply for airspace restrictions or prohibitions to prevent Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS or Drones) from operating adjacent to their facilities.

To date, the FAA has not issued such rules. In fact, they recently announced a delayed time frame of 2023. In the absence of federal rule making, many states have enacted legislation to protect people and property resulting in a patchwork of state laws that is confusing for stakeholders like fixed site attractions, law enforcement, and the UAS industry.

According to the FAA, more than 860,000 commercial and recreational UAS are registered in the United States. This number will likely grow exponentially in the coming years. It is IAAPA's position that fixed site attractions need to be able to lawfully protect their workers, consumers, and facilities against potential risks involving intellectual property, worker and consumer safety, homeland security threats, and other criminal and illicit activities, in addition to otherwise lawful operations such as safety inspections.

We will keep you updated as this important rulemaking moves forward.

## **Biden Administration Drops International Traveler COVID Test Requirement**

Last week, the Biden Administration announced they are dropping the requirement for international travelers to provide a negative COVID-19 test 24 hours prior to departing for the United States. This requirement will lift starting Sunday, June 12th and CDC will reassess in 90 days whether or not it should be reinstated. Lifting this requirement will help reinvigorate international travel to the U.S., which is critical for both leisure and business travel purposes. IAAPA Public Affairs will remain engaged to ensure the requirement will not be reinstated in 90 days.

### **IAAPA Defending Your Interests In D.C.**

Leaders from IAAPA and its membership continue to defend your interests in Washington, D.C. Represented in these pictures is Corrine Brindley, Corporate Vice President of External Affairs, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Hal McEvoy, President and CEO, IAAPA, Michael Shelton, Executive Director and Vice President, IAAPA North America, and Keith Stephenson, Director of Public Affairs, IAAPA.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Stephenson".

Keith Stephenson  
Director of Public Affairs  
IAAPA North America