

IAAPA PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE



The new Congress convened on January 3, 2023. Since that time, the public affairs team has been meeting and educating newly elected congressional members about IAAPA, its members, and federal issues impacting the US attractions industry.

In fact, over the past two weeks we met with the leadership teams of 13 new congressional members. We also attended a private event with U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion to express our thanks for her leadership on behalf of the attractions industry.

Senator Rosen led bipartisan legislation - the Omnibus Travel and Tourism Act - that created the new position of Assistant Secretary of Commerce of Travel and Tourism to coordinate travel and tourism policy on behalf of the United States. In addition, the legislation formally authorized the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board (TTAB) to collect data on domestic travel and tourism, mandate the development of a national travel and tourism strategy every ten years, and report on the lingering impacts of the pandemic on the travel and tourism industry.

Longtime IAAPA member Will Morey, President and CEO of Morey's Piers, currently serves on TTAB on behalf of the attractions industry. Our team works closely with Mr. Morey to ensure he has the most current industry information available. Whether it's working with TTAB or newly elected congressional members, our asks are as follows:

Open pathways to employment in the U.S.

Improve 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.

Increase visa processing capacity for tourism and workforce visas

Priority must be given to increase visa processing capabilities which will benefit international travel, reinforce our nation's workforce, and further U.S. diplomacy objectives.

Enable fixed site attractions to petition the Federal Aviation Administration to restrict the operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems above their facilities.

We continue to raise awareness about the safety and security risks associated with unauthorized Unmanned Aircraft Systems operating above fixed site attractions. To mitigate this growing problem, we are advocating for FAA implementation of Section 2209 and expanded detection and mitigation authority for federal, state, and local law enforcement to protect critical infrastructure facilities which includes fixed site amusement parks.

Address supply chain problems

Ongoing global supply chain disruptions has left many attractions operators struggling with challenges ranging from the inability to open new rides to properly stocking concessions.

Encourage industry involvement and input when new or amended rules and regulations are considered

One of our industry's greatest challenges involves navigating and implementing the myriad layers of rules and regulations required from all levels of government. Ensuring that industries most impacted by proposed rules and regulations are heard by policymakers before implementation will ensure regulations are narrowly tailored to solve industry specific problems. A one-size-fits-all approach does not work. Flexibility and consistency in regulatory processes is critical.

Address inflation by solving supply chain and workforce challenges

Inflation is impacting every aspect of the attractions business. Many of the challenges noted above are interrelated. Addressing supply chain and workforce development challenges will aid in alleviating key contributors to overall inflation.

While we will continue advocating for members in D.C., our team is also engaged in a variety of state level issues around the country and in Canada. We encourage you to watch for future updates for more details in those jurisdictions.

On a personal note, I look forward to seeing many of you next week at the IAAPA North America Trade Summit in San Diego, California. Click [here](#) for more details.

Sincerely,



Keith Stephenson
Director of Public Affairs
IAAPA North America