



2021 TIA Government Affairs Year in Review

TIA is honored to represent your company in Washington. Below are highlights of our activity this year on Capitol Hill, with the Administration and Independent Agencies, as well as our D.C. policy events and public affairs and media outreach.

Highlights

- Conducted **more than 160 advocacy meetings** on the Hill, with the FCC, and Administration (e.g., White House, USTR, NTIA, ITA, DHS, NIST).
- Filed and sent more than **30 official comments and letters** on TIA members' behalf.
- TIA hosted a **virtual two-day meeting for our members**, which featured keynotes from **Senator Ben Lujan (D-NM), FCC Commissioners Geoffrey Starks and Nathan Simington**, as well as panels featuring numerous senior administration officials in order to discuss ICT priorities for infrastructure legislation.
- TIA led efforts to **support global 5G standards** and push back against India's promotion of the domestic "5Gi" standard. In December, Indian representatives came together with global ICT vendors at 3GPP in a **compromise agreement that will merge 5Gi with global specifications**.
- TIA's **Melissa Newman was named to the Tiger Team** of the DHS ICT Supply Chain Task Force.
- TIA's **Colin Andrews was appointed to serve on the FCC's CSRIC VIII**.
- **Weekly Washington Roundup** which summarizes key telecom D.C. activity.

Broadband Infrastructure

TIA has been active on impacting broadband deployment policies as DC transitioned into single-party control and the once-in-a-generation passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Filings

- An [Amicus Brief](#) in *ACA v. Becerra*, which challenges California's Net Neutrality legislation.
- [Comments](#) in response to an FCC Notice of Inquiry (NOI) seeking industry input on the deployment of Open Radio Access Networks in the U.S.
- [Reply Comments](#) in the FCC's Request for Information on Promoting the Deployment of 5G Open Radio Access Networks.
- [Signed a letter](#) to Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg asking for sensible reforms prior to existing federal regulations that prohibit the broad use of autonomous vehicles in the U.S. as part of DoT's infrastructure funds implementation.



- **Sent a letter to the leaders of the House and Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee** calling for the funding of the Smart Buildings Acceleration Act.
- **Signed on to a letter endorsing the Smart Cities and Communities Act**, which was reintroduced this Tuesday by Reps. DelBenne and Clarke.
- **Signed a [joint letter](#) regarding C-band** urging the administration to reject calls to delay U.S. 5G C-band operations beyond January 5, 2022.
- **Joined a coalition of like-minded associations in filing comments to the FCC** arguing against imposing regulatory fees on unlicensed spectrum holders.

Administration

- **Meeting with the team leads on broadband issues at the National Economic Council, Tim Wu and Lisa Hone**, to discuss the White House's priorities on expanding broadband access.
- **Meeting with staff from the International Trade Administration (ITA)** in order to discuss wireless network solutions, including Open RAN.
- **Meeting with senior staff from the Secretary of Commerce's office and ITA** in order to discuss network buildout solutions and Open RAN architectures.
- **Meeting with Senior Department of Commerce Policy Advisers** to discuss TIA member priorities.
- **Meeting with senior staff at NTIA to discuss issues with the Buy American provisions** in the bipartisan infrastructure bill.
- **Ex-parte with the FCC as part of a coalition opposing imposing regulatory fees** on manufacturers of IoT devices that utilize unlicensed spectrum.
- **Four meetings with Commissioner Simington as part of regular 1-on-1 meetings** to discuss FCC and TIA priorities.

Hill Engagement

- **Meeting with the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology** to discuss how the USG can partner with companies to support 5G innovations and on the upcoming need to re-authorize NIST's budget.
- **Meeting with staff of Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL)** with the IT-SCC's Emerging Technology Committee in order to discuss Democratic priorities for the House Energy and Commerce Committee.
- **Meeting with staff from the majority and minority staff of the Senators working on the Bipartisan Infrastructure package** in order to advocate member interests on broadband infrastructure.
- **Meeting with Energy and Commerce Committee staff** to discuss TIA's priorities for 2021.
- **Meeting with the majority staff from House Energy and Commerce** in order to discuss TIA and member priorities for the 117th Congress.
- **Participation in a coalition meeting on infrastructure legislation with Representative John Katko (R-NY)** discussing the potential future for the bipartisan infrastructure legislation.
- **TIA met with staff from Senator Welch's (D-VT) office** in order to discuss appropriations for the Smart Building Acceleration Act.



- **Board of Director’s briefing from Rep. Katko (R-NY)** to discuss issues related to infrastructure and security.
- **Board of Director’s briefing from Sen. Young (R-IN)** to discuss USICA, infrastructure, and supply chain security.
- **Board of Director’s briefing from Department of Commerce Chief of Staff Kevin Gallagher** in order to discuss Commerce’s role in implementing the broadband funding in the bipartisan infrastructure package.
- **Meeting with the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology** to discuss how the USG can partner with companies to support 5G innovations and on the upcoming need to re-authorize NIST’s budget.
- **TIA participated in a meeting with Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee staff** to discuss Buy American provisions of the IIJA.

Public Affairs

Events

- **TIA spoke at a private meeting of associations on the state of the rollout of 5G** in the U.S. and how it has been impacted by unproven health concerns.
- **TIA participated in a meeting of the National Association of Manufacturer’s Infrastructure Committee** in order to discuss Congress’ priorities for an infrastructure bill.
- **Joined the Open Ran Coalition’s “Coalition of Coalitions”** in order to discuss domestic and international updates regarding virtualized network options.
- **TIA’s Melissa Newman moderated a fireside chat with NTIA Director of Communications Policy Initiatives Russ Hanser** at a FierceWireless broadband summit on bridging the digital divide.

Media

- [Press release](#) congratulating **Commerce Department nominees** Gov. Gina Raimondo and Mr. Don Graves.
- [Press release](#) congratulating **FCC and NTIA nominees on their appointments** and highlighting how TIA plans to work with them should they be confirmed.
- [Press release](#) outlining **plans to work with Senator Lujan** in his new position as Chair of the Senate Subcommittee for Communications, Media, And Broadband
- [Press release](#) **applauding Senate passage** of the bipartisan infrastructure bill.
- [Press release](#) **highlighting industry concerns with the Pres. Biden’s executive order** on promoting competition in the American economy.



Securing the ICT Supply Chain

TIA continued its role as a leading voice and thought leader on advocating for ways to reduce vulnerabilities in the ICT supply chain and mitigate cyber risk exposure to IoT devices.

Filings

- **Led a coalition of ICT associations in a [letter](#) to Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Raimondo** supporting industry-led standards as an important way to resolve security challenges.
- **[Comments](#) with the Department of Commerce** in response to an Interim Final Rule putting private ICT transactions under the regulatory scope of the Secretary of Commerce.
- **[Comments](#) in response to an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) issued by the Department of Commerce** seeking input on establishing a licensing system for their rules allowing investigations of private ICT transactions.
- **[Comments](#) to NTIA** regarding efforts to establish a Software Bill of Materials.
- **[Comments](#) and [Reply Comments](#) to the FCC's NPRM and NOI on using the Equipment Authorization process** to address national security concerns.
- **Coalition [letter](#) on cyber incident reporting requirements** that was sent to Congressional leadership.
- **[Comments](#) to BIS** on risks to the ICT supply chain.

Administration

- **Meeting with NTIA career staff** to discuss the status of the Department of Commerce's Interim Final Rule focusing on ICT transactions.
- **Meeting NTIA staff to discuss the Implementation Plan for the National Strategy to Secure 5G** and the planned Listening Sessions with industry.
- **Meeting with staff from the Government Accountability Office to discuss the effectiveness of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)** in its role working with the communication sector.
- **Meeting with CISA staff** with the Information Sector Coordinating Council to discuss how CISA and the IT-SCC can coordinate cyber objectives more efficiently.
- **Briefing from NTIA on their ongoing work on Software Bill of Materials** approach to cyber security.
- **Board Meeting with NTIA Acting Administrator Evelyn Remaley** to discuss the agency's role in expanding broadband access and safeguarding America's ICT networks.
- **Meeting with CISA staff on DHS' work on the Implementation Plan for the National Strategy to Secure 5G** as a member of the Communications Sector Coordinating Council's 5G Working Group.
- **TIA briefing to the "Tiger Team" of DHS' ICT Supply Chain Risk Management Task Force** on the progress of TIA's supply chain standard and benchmarking tool.
- **Meeting with leading NTIA officials** to discuss international discussions around supply chain security.



- **Meeting with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing** at the International Trade Administration to talk about the ICT supply chain.
- **Briefing by CISA** on the ICT implications of the Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack.
- **Meeting with staff from the ITA** in order to discuss the year-long review of the ICTS supply chain pursuant to Biden's executive order on Securing America's Supply Chains
- **Meeting with Jeff Greene of the National Security Council** to discuss executive action on cybersecurity.
- **Meeting with NTIA staff to discuss recent Software Bill of Materials work**, as well as ongoing industry efforts to secure the ICT supply chain.
- **Briefing from CISA on President Biden's ICT Supply Chain Executive Order** as part of the DHS ICT Supply Chain Risk Management Task Force.
- **Meeting with the Chief of Staff of the Secretary of Commerce in order to discuss ICT supply chain concerns and TIA member priorities.**
- **Hosting an *ex parte* meeting with over 20 FCC staff** on the Commission's equipment authorization NPRM and NOI.
- **Meeting with White House National Security Council staff** in order to discuss ICT supply chain vulnerabilities, member priorities, and industry-led standards.

Hill Engagement

- **Meeting with staff of the Republican staff of the Research and Technology Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology** to discuss TIA's work on creating a standard focused on the ICT supply chain.
- **Meeting with staff from the House Energy and Commerce Committee** to discuss TIA's work on industry-led standards for supply chain security.
- **Meeting with staff from Rep. Katko's (R-NY) office** on 5G security issues.
- **Meeting with members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee** to discuss the Cyber Diplomacy Act.
- **Meeting with Senate Minority Whip Sen. John Thune and his staff** to discuss supply chain security and infrastructure.
- **Meeting with House Homeland Security Ranking Member Rep. John Katko and his staff** to discuss supply chain security and infrastructure.
- **Meeting with House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers and her staff** in order to discuss supply chain security, the semiconductor shortage, and infrastructure priorities.
- **Meeting with House Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee staff and Sen. Portman's advisor on trade and technology**, to discuss issues related to supply chain security and standards policy.
- **Meeting with Senate Energy and Commerce Ranking Member Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)** in order to discuss TIA priorities and TIA's SCS 9001 standard.
- **Meeting with Commerce Committee Chair Sen Cantwell's staff** to discuss supply chain security policy, TIA priorities, and amendments to the Endless Frontier Act.
- **Meeting with numerous staff members of the majority and minority Senate Commerce leadership to discuss amendments to the Endless Frontier Act.**
- **Meeting with Sen. Warner's staff** to discuss supply chain security and related policy measures.



- **Meeting with Rep. Mike Doyle (D-PA)** to discuss TIA member's priorities and ICT supply chain security.
- **Meeting with Senate Subcommittee on Communications Chair Sen. Lujan (D-NM)'s staff** in order to discuss supply chain security policy and current TIA member legislative priorities.
- **Meeting with majority and minority staff of the House Energy and Commerce Committee** in order to provide feedback on bills impacting the ICT supply chain.
- **Meeting with Rep. Anna Eshoo's Legislative Director** to discuss minor concerns with the Secure Equipment Act ([H.R. 3919](https://www.congress.gov/bills/115/3919)), which passed the House the following day.

Public Affairs

Events

- **Remarks at NTIA's Industry Listening Session on the National Strategy to Secure 5G Implementation Plan**, highlighting the leading role that industry should play in securing ICT supply chains.
- **TIA's Supply Chain Security Working Group met** to discuss TIA's comments on the rip and replace docket at the FCC and comments on the ICT supply chain order implementing rules.
- **TIA's Colin Andrews participated on a panel following keynote remarks by FCC Commissioner Carr** to discuss the FCC's approach to supply chain security.
- **TIA's Melissa Newman presented on a virtual forum focused on risks to the ICT supply chain hosted by** the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security.
- **TIA's Melissa Newman spoke at a BIS forum on risks to the ICT supply chain.**
- **TIA participated in an event with Rob Silvers, Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans at DHS, and Trisha Anderson, Acting Deputy Assistance Secretary for Intelligence and Security at the Department of Commerce**, to discuss the Department of Commerce's ICTS Supply Chain Transactions Interim Final Rule.
- **TIA's Melissa Newman presented on a webinar sponsored by the Practicing Law Institute on Cybersecurity and Network Security Updates.**

Advisory Council Positions

- **TIA attended over 50 meetings of public-private partnerships focused on the ICT community**, such as the DHS ICT Supply Chain Risk Management Task Force, the Communications Sector Coordinating Council, and the Information Technology Sector Coordinating Council
- **TIA's Colin Andrews was nominated to serve on the FCC's eighth installment of the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council.**
- **Melissa Newman was added to DHS' ICT Supply Chain Risk Management Task Force's "Tiger Team,"** which serves as the public-private coordinating council for the Task Force.

Media



- [Press release](#) applauding the passage of the **U.S. Innovation and Competition Act** in the Senate.
- [Press release](#) applauding the nomination of **Chris Inglis** to the inaugural role of Nation Cyber Director.
- [Press release](#) congratulating **Jen Easterly** on her nomination to lead the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

Semiconductors and ICT Supply Chain Issues

TIA advocated for federal investments in U.S. semiconductor capacity, pushed back against government intervention in the semiconductor supply chain in favor of the auto sector, and pushed back against domestic content requirements for ICT products in government programs.

Filings

- [CEO letter to the White House](#) supporting technology neutrality in any executive action regarding the semiconductor supply chain.
- [Coalition letter to the White House](#) urging for any action related to the semiconductor supply chain to refrain from favoring any particular end-use.
- [Comments to BIS on the government response to the semiconductor shortage](#), supporting technology-neutral action and highlighting the downstream impact on the telecommunications sector.
- [Comments to the FCC](#) on the semiconductor shortage and its impacts on the telecommunications sector.
- [Coalition letter to support funding for the CHIPS Act](#), which would support the opening of semiconductor manufacturing facilities in the United States.
- [Joint letter supporting incentives for semiconductor-related initiatives](#) to House and Senate leadership.
- [Comments to the Department of Transportation](#) on the impact of the semiconductor shortage on the telecommunications sector.
- [Comments on the proposed changes to “Buy American” provisions](#) of Federal Acquisition Regulations.
- [Coalition letter raising concerns about changes to “Buy American” provisions](#) of the FAR.

Administration

- [Meeting with NSC/NEC Senior Director Peter Harrell](#) to discuss the impact of the semiconductor shortage on the telecommunications sector.
- [Remarks to BIS Virtual Forum on Risks on the ICT supply chain](#) including a discussion of semiconductor-related issues.
- [Meeting with the USITC to discuss the ongoing impact of semiconductor shortage](#) on the telecommunications sector.
- [Remarks to invite-only USITC panel event](#) on the global ICT value chain.



- **Meeting with the Government Accountability Office (GAO)** to provide input into their research on the semiconductor supply chain and the impact on end users.

Hill Engagement

- **Nine meetings with members of Congress and staff** in support of semiconductor funding and tax incentives.

Public Affairs

- [Blog](#) on the importance of global ICT supply chains to the American Economy.

Standards Policy

TIA supported U.S. private sector leadership in the development of globally harmonized technical standards by advocating against the application of U.S. export controls to standards development, highlighting industry concerns about India's push for a domestic 5G standard, and providing input to U.S. government on China's role in standards development.

Filings

- **Led a coalition letter to India's Telecommunications Engineering Center (TEC) on India 5Gi**, expressing concern about the government's ongoing work to promote a domestic alternative for global specifications as a national standard.
- **Led a second [coalition letter](#) to India's TEC** supporting the adoption of 3GPP Release 15 as a national standard.
- **[Comments](#) on China's participation in standards development** to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Administration and International

- **TIA's Standards and IPR Policy Committee (SIPC) met with officials from NTIA** to discuss standards policy.
- **Meeting regarding the application of export controls to standards development** with senior representatives from the Commerce Department, the State Department, and DOD.
- **Three meetings with senior BIS officials** to discuss the ongoing application export controls to standards.
- **Bilateral dialogue with China's Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA)** to discuss bilateral cooperation related to standards and conformity assessment.
- **Standards and IPR Policy Committee (SIPC) meeting with senior NTIA staff** to discuss the agency's engagement on international standards issues.
- **Convened a group of leading officials from NTIA, NIST, and ITA** to discuss India's drive to mandate a country-specific 5G standard.



- **Event with ITU-D Director Doreen Bogdan-Martin** in support of her candidacy for Secretary-General of the ITU.
- **Coalition meeting on standards-related technical barriers to trade (TBTs)** with senior officials at USTR, NIST, and the ITA.

Hill Engagement

- **SIPC meeting with bipartisan committee staff** to discuss ongoing work on the NIST for the Future Act.
- **Extensive comments on the NIST for the Future Act** that led to specific changes to the Posey Amendment and to the standards participation grant program selection criteria.
- **TIA's support for the NIST for the Future Act was read into the congressional record** at a markup session held by the House Science Committee.

Public Affairs

Events

- **TIA's global membership meeting included a panel on standards development and standards policy** headlined by TIA members alongside NTIA Acting Administrator of International Affairs Jaisha Wray.

Advisory Council Positions

- **TIA's Patrick Lozada was selected as a voting member of the ANSI International Policy Advisory Group** and a participant in their India and China task forces.
- **TIA CEO David Stehlin was elected to the ANSI Board of Directors** in January.

Media/News/OP-Eds

- **[Interview](#)** aired on NPR's **Marketplace** to discuss U.S.-China competition and technology standards.
- **[Editorial](#)** published by **Stanford's DigiChina initiative** on China's participation in international standards development.
- **[Press release](#)** **applauding the introduction of the NIST for the Future Act** in the House of Representatives.

Trade and Market Access

TIA worked to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers around the world and support the use of trusted telecommunications equipment and services.

Filings



- [Letter](#) urging the confirmation of Katherine Tai to lead the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).
- [Comments](#) to the Export Import Bank to the United States asking the bank to expand support for the telecommunications sector.
- [Joint letter](#) opposing Section 301 tariffs on imports from Vietnam to USTR Tai with other industry associations.
- [Coalition letter](#) supporting the extension Section 301 tariff exemptions.
- Led a [coalition of trade associations](#) highlighting concerns with India's mounting tariffs on ICT products and calling on USTR to consider initiating proceedings at the WTO.
- [Comments](#) to USTR in support of the agency's annual report on trade barriers around the world.
- [Joint comments](#) before the FCC on revising the Commission's equipment and market access rules to allow for a more streamlined process of getting new, innovative technologies in consumer's hands.
- [Letter](#) and joint [TIA-ITI white paper](#) highlighting TBT issues in India submitted to USTR in advance of the U.S.-India Trade Policy Forum.

Administration and International

- **Meeting with ITA staff to discuss engagement with ASEAN** on issues related to IoT security, e-labeling, and smart buildings.
- **Facilitated an off-the-record roundtable hosted by the Carnegie Endowment and the Japanese government** on the U.S.-Japan collaboration on 5G and next-generation technologies.
- **Meeting with the Assistant USTR and Deputy Assistant USTR for the Western Hemisphere** as part of a group discussing USMCA implementation challenges with Mexico.
- **Meeting with USTR staff** to discuss expansion of the Information Technology Agreement.
- **Melissa Newman spoke on a panel on 5G at SelectUSA.** The conference was keynoted by President Biden and Commerce Secretary Raimondo.
- **Meeting with USTR staff** to discuss expansion of the Information Technology Agreement.
- **Co-hosted a virtual bilateral meeting with senior Indian officials** including the President of Invest India and the Joint Secretary of the Department of Telecommunications to discuss manufacturing incentives for the ICT sector in India.
- **Briefing with officials from USTR, the Commerce Department, and FCC** on technical barriers to trade in Mexico.
- **Meeting with USTR staff to highlight TBT issues in India** for USG to consider in the context of the bilateral Trade Policy Forum.
- **TIA's Patrick Lozada gave remarks on US-EU cooperation on tech issues** at the stakeholder meeting for Transatlantic Trade and Technology Council (TTC).
- **Meeting with Indian diplomats** to discuss bilateral ICT issues.
- **Joined bilateral dialogues with America's Asian partners** including the annual U.S.-Japan Internet Economy Dialogue (IED) and the U.S.-ROK ICT Policy Forum.
- **Meeting with Deputy USTR Jayme White** to discuss USMCA implementation issues.
- **Closed-door symposium held by the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA)** on the topic of certification-based approaches to cybersecurity.



- **Joined WTO business dialogue with Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** held in advance of the planned WTO ministerial conference.
- **Symposium on trade and technology with NSC Senior Director Peter Harrell, Deputy National Security Adviser Anne Neuberger, and leading EU officials** held at the Embassy of Finland.
- **Coalition meeting with NSC Asia Coordinator Kurt Campbell** to discuss outcomes from the Quad leaders' meeting.

Hill Engagement

- **Meeting with Sen. Portman's staff** to discuss trade and market access issues, in particular Indian tariffs on ICT products and TBT issues in Mexico.
- **Coalition call with House Majority Ways and Means Chief Trade Counsel** to discuss trade barriers with Mexico.
- **Meeting with the chief Senate Finance Trade Counsel** to discuss trade and market access issues.
- **Meeting with the Chief Advisor for International Competitiveness and Innovation to the Senate Finance Committee** to discuss trade and market access issues.
- **Call with Sen. Burr's trade staff** to discuss issues related to USMCA enforcement and India's tariffs on ICT products.
- **Meeting with staff from Sen. Bob Casey's office** to highlight concerns regarding technical barriers to trade in Mexico and India's tariffs on ICT products.
- **Meeting with staff from Sen. Cornyn's office** to discuss issues related to trade and market access for tech products in Mexico and India.
- **Meeting with staff of Sen. Sasse** to discuss trade issues.
- **TIA's International Committee meeting with Senator Warner's staff** to brief the International Committee on the Democracy Technology Partnership Act.
- **Meeting with Senator Bennet's staff** to discuss issues with USMCA implementation.
- **Meeting with Chief Counsel for International Trade for Sen. Mike Crapo** to discuss USMCA implementation issues.
- **Meeting with the majority Staff Director of the International Trade, Customs and Global Competitiveness Subcommittee** to discuss USMCA implementation issues.
- **Meeting with Sen. Bob Menendez's staff** to discuss USMCA implementation issues.
- **Meeting with Rep. Jimmy Gomez's trade staffer** to highlight U.S.-India trade issues.

Public Affairs

Events

- **Filmed a panel event featuring TIA members for the SelectUSA investment forum** focusing on ICT and network technologies.