

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**July 7, 2025**

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## **TIA Outlines Federal Priorities in Updated Legislative Position Papers**

With the 119th Congress well underway, the Tire Industry Association (TIA) has reaffirmed its federal advocacy goals with the release of updated legislative position papers.

These documents outline the most pressing federal issues impacting TIA's membership and serve as a central component of the association's policy strategy in Washington.

Crafted annually by TIA's Government Affairs Committee and approved by the full Board of Directors, the position papers are designed to educate lawmakers, federal agencies, and stakeholders on the association's views regarding key legislation. They clearly communicate the policy changes TIA supports, including proposed bill language, and provide insight into how legislative outcomes could affect businesses across the tire industry.

TIA's position papers serve as a practical resource for policymakers, offering not only background on each issue but also a clear call to action. Whether supporting the passage of a specific bill or opposing harmful regulatory changes, the documents help ensure that the voice of the tire industry is heard in ongoing legislative debates.

The newly approved position papers will be distributed to members of Congress, tire manufacturers, the press, and TIA members. As living documents, they will continue to evolve alongside legislative developments and industry needs.

[Click here to view the 2025 TIA Position Papers](#)

Please contact Roy Littlefield IV, TIA VP of Government Affairs at [rlittlefield2@tireindustry.org](mailto:rlittlefield2@tireindustry.org) with any questions.

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**President Signs Historic Tax Relief Bill,**

# **Making Estate Tax Exemption Permanent**

On July 4th, President Trump signed into law the “One Big Beautiful Bill” (OB BB), a landmark piece of legislation that delivers sweeping tax relief to America’s family-owned businesses — including long-sought, permanent relief from the federal estate tax.

Among the most significant provisions, OB BB increases the unified estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer (GST) tax exemptions to \$15 million per individual and \$30 million per couple, with both amounts indexed for inflation. Unlike previous reforms, this increase is permanent, eliminating the looming threat of a fiscal cliff where exemptions would automatically revert to lower levels.

This marks a major victory in the decades-long battle against the death tax. Just over 20 years ago, in 2001, the exemption stood at just \$675,000, with a top tax rate of 55%. The permanent changes in OB BB represent the most favorable federal estate tax environment since TIA began advocating for reform.

While the Tire Industry Association (TIA) continues to support the full repeal of the estate tax, the passage of OB BB provides long-term certainty and protection for the vast majority of our members. With these increased and permanent exemption levels, thousands of family-owned businesses can now focus on growth and succession planning without fear of devastating tax burdens.

TIA applauds this progress and remains committed to defending and expanding policies that support family businesses across the country.

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## **Congress Passes OB BBA as Appropriations Work Begins**

The “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (OB BBA) was signed into law by President Trump on July 4th after passing both chambers of Congress by narrow margins. In the Senate, the measure was approved 51–50, with Vice President J.D. Vance casting the tie-breaking vote. The legislation marks a significant milestone for the administration and brings months of negotiations to a close.

The OB BBA delivers a broad package of tax cuts, primarily aimed at businesses, with limited tax relief for individuals and families. In addition, it allocates approximately \$325 billion toward border security, immigration enforcement, and defense programs. To offset these provisions, the bill includes substantial cuts to several social safety net programs. Independent analyses estimate that the legislation will add at least \$3 trillion to the federal deficit over the next decade.

With the passage of the bill, congressional attention now turns to other priorities — foremost among them, the annual appropriations process.

## **Senate Returns for Appropriations, Recissions Debate**

This week, the Senate is in session and will begin consideration of fiscal year 2026 appropriations bills. It is also expected to take up a separate rescissions package aimed at cutting previously approved spending. The House passed the rescissions bill last month by a narrow 214–212 margin.

The proposed \$9.4 billion in cuts largely target funding for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Domestic public broadcasting programs such as NPR and PBS are also included. The legislation is part of a broader initiative led by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which was created by the administration to reduce federal spending. Further cuts to larger agencies, including the Department of Education, may follow.

The rescissions bill must be enacted by July 18; otherwise, the targeted funds will be disbursed as originally appropriated. The Senate is expected to debate and amend the package next week before returning it to the House. This procedural approach, often referred to as “jamming,” is a standard legislative tactic that compels the House to accept the Senate’s version of a bill to meet time-sensitive deadlines. Some senators, including Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME), have raised concerns about both the content of the proposed cuts and the balance of authority between Congress and the executive branch. Further modifications to the package are likely.

## **Spending Debate Heats Up Ahead of September Deadline**

The broader debate over federal spending is expected to intensify in the coming months. On Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider three spending bills — Agriculture/FDA, Commerce/Justice/Science, and Legislative Branch — marking the first action on appropriations in the upper chamber this year.

In the House, lawmakers have passed one bill (Veterans Affairs and Military Construction) on the floor and cleared four others through committee. House Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) has stated his intention to move all 12 appropriations bills through the chamber before the August recess. The Senate aims to complete its committee work on appropriations within the same timeframe.

This year’s appropriations process is further complicated by the administration’s proposed “skinny budget,” which outlined more than \$160 billion in spending reductions but has yet to be formalized in a full budget submission. Lawmakers from both parties have expressed

concerns about the proposed cuts and the lack of detailed fiscal guidance.

With the start of the new fiscal year set for October 1, Congress faces a tight deadline. While short-term continuing resolutions (CRs) are commonly used to prevent government shutdowns, some observers warn that the risk of a shutdown later in the year is elevated. Although Congress avoided a shutdown last year, it did rely on a full-year CR — an uncommon and widely criticized outcome — raising concerns about future delays and disruptions in the appropriations process.

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## **Long sworn in as the 51st IRS Commissioner**

Billy Long was sworn in as the 51st Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service on June 16. Long was confirmed by the Senate on June 12.

In a message to all employees, Long said he plans to develop a more taxpayer-friendly agency by transforming the culture at the IRS during his tenure. “In my first 90 days I plan to ask you, my employee partners, to help me develop a new culture here. I’m big on culture, and I’m anxious to develop one that makes your lives and the taxpayers’ lives better,” Long wrote.

Long served as a U.S. representative for Missouri’s 7th Congressional district from 2011 to 2023. Prior to his time in Congress, he was a real estate broker for 32 years and an auctioneer for 31 years who was inducted into the National Auctioneers’ Association Hall of Fame, and also was a radio talk show host from 1999-2006.

Long's term will run through Nov. 12, 2027.

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## **QR Code Available for TIA "Right to Repair - Report Your Issue Webpage**

The Tire Industry Association (TIA) is excited to announce that its [“Right to Repair - Report Your Issue” webpage](#) is now even easier to access with a new QR code, conveniently available for scanning in the shop.

This tool empowers shop owners and technicians to report instances where they face barriers to diagnosing or repairing vehicles, providing critical data to help protect the right to repair for all.

With reports increasing of automakers restricting access to both wired (OBD-II) and wireless (telematics) diagnostic and repair information, TIA aims to document the real-world impacts of these restrictions on businesses, consumers, and the broader economy.

## Why the Right-to-Repair Form Matters

The form gathers key information about repair challenges, including:

- Vehicle specifics: Make, model, and year.
- Maintenance attempt details: The type of repair being performed and whether diagnostic codes were accessible.
- Barriers encountered: Lack of proper tools, unavailable OEM documentation, refusal to sell parts, or required software updates.
- Current vehicle status: Whether the repair was completed or the vehicle remains inoperable.

TIA assures users that all submissions will remain confidential, and no identifying personal or business information will be disclosed when case studies are presented on Capitol Hill.

Simply scan the QR code in your shop to access the form and help advocate for the industry's future!

To request a QR code emailed to you, please send an email to [rlittlefield2@tireindustry.org](mailto:rlittlefield2@tireindustry.org)



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