



The IWLA Government Affairs Update

March 4, 2025

Surprise! We're coming at you every other week now! We know, we know – absence makes the heart grow fonder. But in a world where policy changes move faster than a warehouse forklift on turbo mode, we just couldn't wait three whole weeks to bring you the latest government affairs news. That's right, *3PL Matters* is now a **biweekly** affair!

And what a time to make the switch! The new administration's first 100 days are packed with major policy shifts (which, by the way, you can catch up on in our webinar recording), tariffs are keeping supply chains on their toes, and Congress is back at it with trucking and trade bills that could impact your operations.

Speaking of big moves, the **IWLA Legislative Fly-In is just around the corner (April 1-2)** – and this is your chance to make sure lawmakers hear from the warehouse industry loud and clear. Plus, let's be honest, Washington, D.C., during peak cherry blossom season is pretty hard to resist. So, register now and join us on the Hill!

Buckle up – our new twice-a-month schedule means you'll be even more informed, engaged, and ahead of the curve. Now, let's dive in!

Immediate Warehouse Issues

Time is Running Out – Register NOW for the 2025 IWLA Legislative Fly-In!

Your voice matters – but only if you're in the room. The 2025 IWLA Legislative Fly-In (April 1-2, 2025) is your chance to advocate directly with Members of Congress and key committees on the issues that shape the future of warehouse logistics. To secure meetings with the lawmakers who represent you and your business, we must finalize our schedules soon. Your early registration ensures you'll meet with the right decision-makers from your state and district, maximizing the impact of your advocacy. This premier event includes face-to-face meetings with legislators and key committee staff, along with valuable networking opportunities over lunches, expert-led policy

sessions, and an exclusive IWLA-PAC reception featuring House Transportation & Infrastructure Republicans. You'll take your message straight to Capitol Hill for impactful meetings, then wrap up with a celebratory dinner and a fun group outing with fellow industry leaders. Don't miss your chance to shape the policies that affect your business – register today to secure your meetings and make your voice heard! Hotel Deadline is March 10! [Register Here](#)

IWLA Government Affairs Council Hosts “First 100 Days of the Trump Administration” Webinar

With a new administration comes new policies, priorities, and challenges for the 3PL industry. To help members navigate these changes, the IWLA Government Affairs Council hosted *The First 100 Days of the Trump Administration* webinar on Wednesday, Feb. 19. Policy experts Jeff Markey and Bret Manley of Elevate Government Affairs provided a comprehensive analysis of the shifting legislative and regulatory landscape, breaking down key developments affecting the 3PL warehouse sector. Topics included the administration's executive orders – such as the DOGE order – Senate cabinet confirmations, tariff policies, and the rollback of Biden-era regulations. They also examined the reconciliation process, focusing on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reauthorization and the debt ceiling, as well as what to expect in government funding for FY2025 and FY2026. For those who missed the live discussion or would like to review the insights shared, a recording of the webinar is available [HERE](#). IWLA remains committed to keeping our members informed and engaged as policies evolve. Stay tuned for future updates and advocacy opportunities. [Watch Webinar Video](#)

US Tariffs Against Canada and Mexico Go Into Effect

President Donald Trump's long-threatened tariffs against Canada and Mexico went into effect March 4, putting global markets on edge and setting up costly retaliations by the United States' North American allies. Starting just past midnight, imports from Canada and Mexico are now to be taxed at 25 percent, with Canadian energy products subject to 10 percent import duties. The 10 percent tariff that Trump placed on Chinese imports in February was doubled to 20 percent, and Beijing retaliated March 4 with tariffs of up to 15 percent on a wide array of U.S. farm exports. It also expanded the number of U.S. companies subject to export controls and other restrictions by about two dozen. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his country would slap tariffs on more than \$100 billion of American goods over the course of 21 days. Mexico didn't immediately detail any retaliatory measures. [Read More](#) [Read Even More](#)

US Port Charges on China Vessels Add to Supply Chain Uncertainty

The Trump administration's proposal to assess massive port charges on Chinese-built and -operated cargo vessels is creating more questions than answers for the global maritime industry. The proposal announced Feb. 21 by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has its roots in a 2024 investigation that found China leveraged unfair trade practices to dominate the maritime, logistics and shipbuilding sectors. The fees include: Up to \$1 million per call for a Chinese-operated vessel; From \$500,000 to \$1.5 million per call depending on how many Chinese-built vessels are in an operator's fleet; From \$500,000 to \$1 million per call for operators with vessels on order at Chinese shipyards. There are also new ocean cargo preference rules which would immediately require 1 percent of U.S. exports move on U.S.-flagged and -operated ships, then 3 percent within two years, 5 percent within five years and 15 percent within seven years. The net effect of the port charges, like tariffs, will be a braking effect on the economy, according to many industry experts. Public comment is being accepted through March 24, after which President Donald Trump will decide whether to implement the proposal. [Read More](#) [Read USTR Press Release](#)

Trump Delays De Minimis' End for Canada, Mexico Products

The de minimis exemption will temporarily remain in place for products from Canada and Mexico even when U.S. tariffs on those countries take effect Tuesday. The exemption, which allows U.S. imports under \$800 to avoid added duties, was slated to end for products from Canada and Mexico as part of the tariff orders. That plan changed when President Donald Trump amended the Canada and Mexico tariff orders Sunday. Both amendments say duty-free de minimis treatment is available until “adequate systems are in place” for efficient tariff revenue processing and collection from imports eligible for the exemption currently. Once the Commerce Secretary notifies the president that the requirements have been met, the de minimis exemption will cease for Canada and Mexico products. The changes offer cross-border e-commerce shippers a temporary reprieve from added duties on low-cost products from the U.S.’s top trading partners. But the de minimis exemption is still on the chopping block, and experts say importers need to find long-term solutions that minimize their exposure to a turbulent trade environment. [Read More](#)

House Lawmakers Reintroduce Truck Parking Bill

The Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act was reintroduced in Congress on Thursday to dedicate federal grants specifically for increasing available parking spaces desperately needed by truckers for resting during off-duty hours. The latest version of the bill would set aside \$755 million over five years (FY2025 through FY 2029) that would be available through a competitive grant program. Similar legislation was introduced in 2021 and in 2023. “I grew up in a family trucking business,” said Mike Bost, R-Ill., who reintroduced the bill in the U.S. House along with Reps. Angie Craig, D-Minn., Pete Stauber, R-Minn., and Salud Carbajal, D-Calif. “I know firsthand how difficult, and oftentimes dangerous, it can be when America’s truckers are forced to push that extra mile in search of a safe place to park. By expanding access to parking options for truckers, we are making our roads safer for all commuters and ensuring that goods and supplies are shipped to market in the most efficient way possible. This is a matter of public safety for everyone and I’m committed to do all I can to drive this legislation over the finish line.” Owner-operators and carriers have been pushing lawmakers on the issue as one of their top concerns for the past five years. [Read More](#)

EPA: Scrap Conclusion That Greenhouse Gases Endanger Public

President Donald Trump’s top environmental regulator is recommending the U.S. government scrap its formal conclusion that greenhouse gases endanger the public, a move that would sweep away the legal foundation for regulations limiting planet-warming pollution from power plants, automobiles and oil wells. In private recommendations to Trump, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin has urged a rewrite of the so-called endangerment finding, setting the stage for a potentially sweeping attack on federal climate regulations. Zeldin delivered his recommendations to Trump a month after the president tasked the EPA with determining the “legality and continuing applicability” of the endangerment finding as part of a Jan. 20 executive order. The EPA said Feb. 26 in an emailed statement that it was “in compliance” with the president’s executive order mandate for the agency to submit recommendations on the legality and continuing applicability of the 2009 endangerment finding. [Read More](#)

Trump Mulls Bringing US Postal Service into Commerce Department

President Donald Trump said his administration is considering merging the U.S. Postal Service into the Department of Commerce, a move that would give the White House more influence over its operations. The Postal Service lost \$9.5 billion during fiscal year 2024, but posted positive results in Q1 2025 with \$144 million in net income. The agency has pushed for administrative and legislative reform to ease its financial challenges, such as pension funding changes. Putting the Postal Service under the Commerce Department's control could help the president advance efforts to privatize the agency, something he expressed interest in during a December press conference. Such an action could usher in a flurry of changes for the agency that is a critical cog in the last-mile delivery ecosystem. The Postal Service handled more than 7.2 billion parcels in its package delivery services segment in fiscal year 2024, and it has secured more direct relationships with shippers during Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's tenure. DeJoy announced last month he plans to step down. [Read More](#)

Updated Warehouse Issues

EPA Takes First Step to Block California Clean Trucks Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency has taken a first step aimed at rescinding the Biden administration's waivers granted for California's Advanced Clean Trucks and Omnibus low nitrogen oxides rules. In a Feb. 14 announcement, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, along with the newly created National Energy Dominance Council, said the agency will be asking Congress to review the waivers of the controversial regulations aimed at transitioning the trucking industry to electric trucks and lowering nitrogen oxides. The Advanced Clean Trucks regulation is a manufacturers zero-emission vehicle sales requirement and a one-time reporting requirement for large entities and fleets. Last month, CARB voluntarily backed down on seeking a waiver of a related regulatory proposal, known as the Advanced Clean Fleets rule, that would have required trucking companies to gradually add zero-emission vehicles to their fleets. However, CARB left standing the Advanced Clean Trucks rule and Omnibus NOx rule. Both proposals require EPA to grant CARB a waiver of federal rules to proceed. [Read More](#)

USDOT Approves Texas Deepwater Port Project

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has approved a license application for a new deepwater port off the coast of Texas, with the capacity to move more than one million barrels of oil a day. The USDOT said the port will be located roughly 27 miles off the coast of Brazoria County, Texas, and will come paired with a shoreside support facility at Freeport Harbor. The project – known officially as the Texas GulfLink Deepwater Port – was first proposed in 2019, but had been stuck, awaiting final authorization from the USDOT's Maritime Administration (MARAD). According to MARAD, there is currently only one deepwater port for oil in the U.S., the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, 18 miles off the coast of Louisiana. There are two more awaiting approval from MARAD – the Bluewater SPM Deepwater Port, approximately 25 miles offshore from the Port of Corpus Christi, and Seaport Oil Terminal (SPOT) Deepwater Port, a proposed offshore platform to be located approximately 35 miles off the coast of Brazoria County, both in Texas. [Read More](#) [Read Even More](#) [Read DOT Press Release](#)

Consumer Spending Falls as Inflation Indicator Rises

The Federal Reserve's preferred measure of underlying inflation rose at a mild pace in January, offering some relief after a string of reports suggested price pressures are heating up again, while consumers pulled back on spending. The so-called core personal consumption expenditures price index, which excludes food and energy items, rose 0.3 percent from December. From a year ago, it

increased 2.6 percent, matching the smallest annual increase since early 2021, Bureau of Economic Analysis data out Feb. 28 showed. Inflation-adjusted consumer spending fell 0.5 percent, marking the biggest monthly decline in almost four years amid extreme winter weather after a robust holiday season. The Feb. 28 report offers some relief on the inflation front after other reports on prices have suggested progress has not only stalled but is now reversing. Fed officials have indicated they need to see a meaningful easing in inflation before they begin lowering interest rates again, especially when they factor in the uncertainty around how President Donald Trump's policies will impact prices. [Read More](#)

Dockworker Union Ratifies Six-Year Contract at Eastern U.S. Ports

As expected, the ratification of a new six-year agreement of a new Master Contract between the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) was overwhelmingly approved by ILA membership on Feb. 25, with almost 99 percent of ILA membership approving the deal, which will ensure labor peace for 36 United States-based East and Gulf Coast ports, stretching from Maine to Texas. ILA officials said that this new contract extension, which spans retroactively from Oct. 1, 2024 through Sept. 30, 2030, is comprised of what it said were record wage increases and also protections against automaton, with the latter a key sticking point throughout negotiations. ILA said that ILA and USMX will make the new deal official on March 11. [Read More](#)

US Displaced China as Germany's Biggest Single Trading Partner Last Year

The United States was Germany's biggest single trading partner last year for the first time since 2015, displacing China from the top spot as exports to the Asian power declined, official figures showed Wednesday. Trade between the U.S. and Germany, which has Europe's biggest economy, ticked up 0.1 percent compared with 252.8 billion euros (\$264.3 billion) in 2023, Germany's Federal Statistical Office said. Trade with China, which was Germany's biggest trading partner every year from 2016 to 2023, dropped 3.1 percent to 246.3 billion euros. The Netherlands took third place with a total trade volume of 205.7 billion euros, a 4.2 percent drop. Germany hasn't seen significant economic growth in five years. The country for years expanded exports and dominated world trade in engineered products like industrial machinery and luxury cars. But it's suffered from increasing competition from Chinese companies, along with many other factors, and the economy contracted in each of the last two years. [Read More](#)

Fed Officials are Worried About Tariffs' Impact on Inflation and See Rate Cuts on Hold, Minutes Show

Federal Reserve officials in January agreed they would need to see inflation come down more before lowering interest rates further, and expressed concern about the impact President Donald Trump's tariffs would have in making that happen, according to meeting minutes released Feb. 19. Policymakers on the Federal Open Market Committee unanimously decided at the meeting to hold their key policy rate steady after three consecutive cuts totaling a full percentage point in 2024. In reaching the decision, members commented on the potential impacts from the new administration, including chatter about the tariffs as well as the impact from reduced regulations and taxes. The committee noted that current policy is "significantly less restrictive" than it had been before the rate cuts, giving members time to evaluate conditions before making any additional moves. Fed Chair Jerome Powell has generally avoided speculation on the impact the tariffs would have. However, other officials have expressed concern and conceded that Trump's moves could impact policy,

possibly delaying rate cuts further. Market pricing currently is anticipating the next reduction to come in July or September. [Read More](#)

After Bridge Collapse, Port of Baltimore Sees Second-Best Year for Cargo

The Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore handled 45.9 million tons of cargo in 2024, its second-best year on record after 52.3 million tons in 2023, as the mid-Atlantic gateway continued to recover from the collapse of the Francis Scott Key bridge in March. A total of 25.5 million tons of cargo was handled during the last six months of 2024, with a value of \$62.2 billion, third-highest in the port's history. Baltimore handled 848,628 tons of roll-on/roll-off farm and construction machinery, tops among U.S. ports, along with imported forest products and gypsum. The hub handled 749,799 cars and light trucks, slipping to second nationally behind the Port of Brunswick, Georgia. The Southern port benefited from diversions after the bridge incident, which shut down auto and light truck volumes through Baltimore in April. Baltimore, which also ranked second for salt and exported coal, finished 10th nationally for total cargo and 11th for dollar value among U.S. ports. The bridge collapse left six workers dead when the container ship M/V Dali smashed into a support after losing power. A new bridge design has been unveiled and is scheduled for completion in 2028. [Read More](#)

Alabama Port Authority Begins Work on Inland Port in Montgomery

Alabama Port Authority and CSX Railroad officially broke ground Thursday on a new inland port in Montgomery, a project designed to speed up freight movement and support local businesses. The Montgomery Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF) will give central Alabama faster access to the Port of Mobile, making it easier for companies to move products in and out of the region. The 272-acre facility will be located along Mobile Highway, close to Interstate 85 and U.S. Highway 31, giving trucks easy access. When complete, it will handle up to 30,000 containers a year. Alabama Governor Kay Ivey called the project an important piece of the state's economic future. "Whether it's boosting freight transportation, fostering economic development, or connecting key industries in the state, the Port of Mobile – or as I like to call it, the 'Port of Alabama' – means big business," Ivey said. "With this expansion of the Port to a more central area of our state, we will strengthen Alabama's freight connectivity with a larger, less congested reach." Officials expect the facility to open by 2027. [Read More](#)

Questions? Contact [Bruce Linderman](#) or call 847.813.4698

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The IWLA 3PL Matters Update is designed to inform you on legislative and regulatory issues that directly impact and affect your warehouse and how you conduct business. The 3PL Matters Update is disseminated every two weeks and provides a look at recent developments and activities from the prior two weeks, as well as a look at what to expect in the upcoming weeks.