

# HOSPITALITY AND SERVICE SECTOR



With a business sector as diverse and far-reaching as this one, many policy priorities are highly parochial ones for the Second Session of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Despite that fact, many broad policy threads bind this community of interests' priorities together. Amongst them are:

- Ongoing calls for airline and surface transportation system improvements, with broad support for an infrastructure bill;
- Concerns regarding the future of NAFTA and other trade agreements pending renewal. This sector is strongly in the free trade category and seeks to eliminate barriers that increase costs, affect sourcing of materials, and hinder the pursuit of new markets;
- Broad workforce and workplace policies, such as completing Senate action on legislation which complements a House-passed bill clarifying the meaning of a “joint-employer” workplace, is a top priority. The pending Department of Labor update of Federal overtime regulations and further refinements to employer obligations under the ACA, also matter greatly;
- Federal inaction on a number of issue fronts such as an increase in the minimum wage, or separate action on overtime, sick leave, and predictive scheduling actions by state and local governments, will be high on the industry’s watch list;
- The NLRB will be at full strength by March or April. What is unknown but certain to draw interest will be how the Board reverses the many cases expanded the rights of unions and their members during the Obama years;
- Technology plays a role as well, as patent troll reform and the impact of AI, robotics, and automation, increasingly come to the fore in industry discussions. Particularly with respect to the latter subject, employers and employees are devoting more and more time to technology’s potential disruptive impact on the workplace (in addition to its’ obvious positive, salutatory affects. Prime Policy Group and the Littler Mendelson law firm submitted comments to the Secretary of Labor in December in response to his request for comments about his Department’s [draft strategic plan](#). We’ll be watching with interest to see how he responds to our policy recommendations;
- Employee recruitment and retention remain at the top of the list for these labor intensive businesses. More and more industry sectors are placing a premium on updated job training and certification programs that provide employees with portable benefits that they may carry into future employment.
- Lastly, a Republican-controlled Congress and White House may afford this and other business sectors either relief or assistance through the use of Executive Orders and new policy priorities from Cabinet Departments.

FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

CHUCK MERIN