



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



2022 Policy Handbook



INTRODUCTION

The 117th Congress and state legislatures throughout the country are convening for legislative sessions in 2022. Hoteliers continue to face an array of challenges even as the economy rebounds. From the Capitol to capitals coast to coast, learn more about how AAHOA is engaging with elected officials to elevate the business interests of America's hoteliers. We encourage you to get involved and make advocacy an integral part of your business plan.

● ● ● **Lets Get Started**



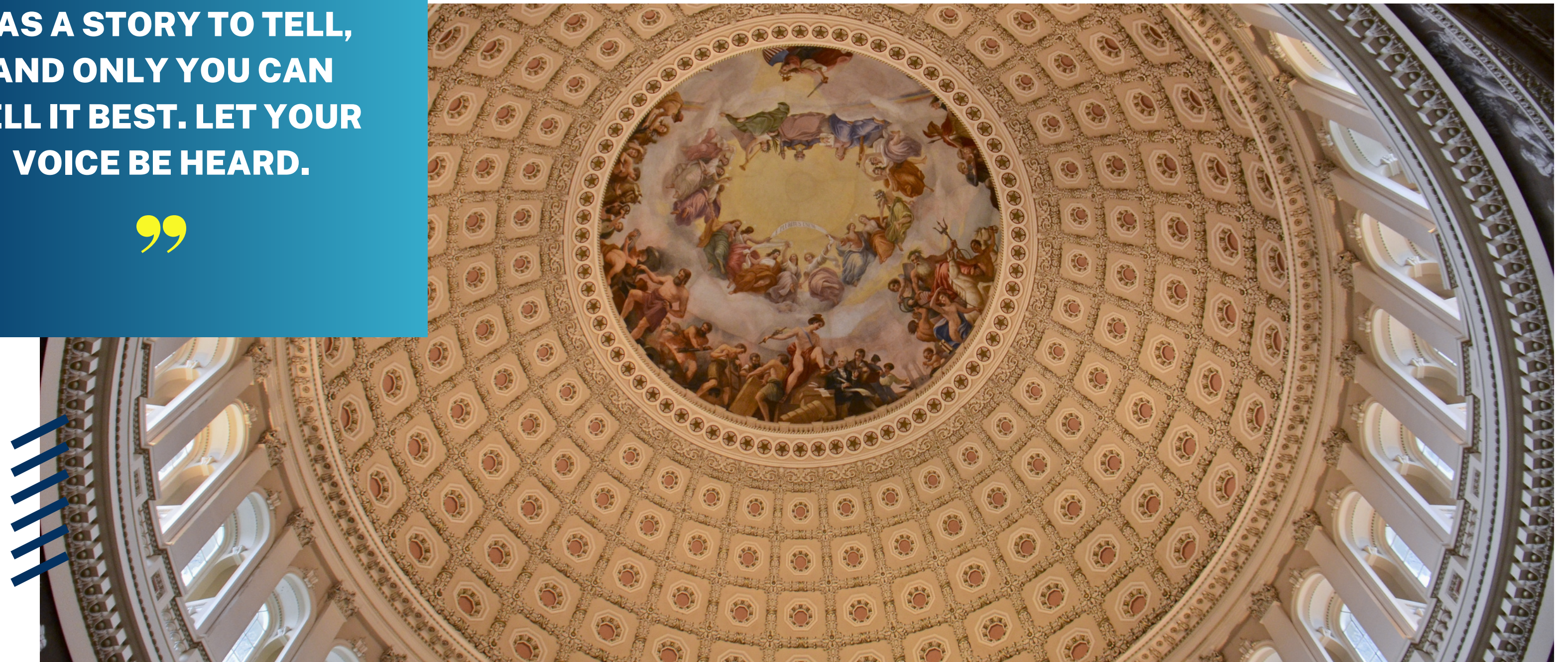
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA



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**EVERY AAHOA MEMBER
HAS A STORY TO TELL,
AND ONLY YOU CAN
TELL IT BEST. LET YOUR
VOICE BE HEARD.**

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FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA



Human Trafficking Awareness Training and Prevention

January is National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month, yet AAHOA's commitment to ending human trafficking is an ongoing mission throughout the year. AAHOA maintains relationships with the Department of Homeland Security, Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking, state partner associations, and many more organizations in the fight against human trafficking.

Returning and Retaining the Hospitality Workforce

AAHOA Members across the country have experienced months-long labor shortages since the onset of the pandemic. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in the leisure and hospitality sectors is down by 1.2 million since February of 2020, a 7.2% decrease, which is among the highest of any labor market.





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Increasing the Cap of the H-2B Visa Program

The H-2B Returning Worker Exception Act of 2021 (H.R. 3897), introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Henry Cueller (D-TX), modifies the H-2B (temporary nonagricultural workers) nonimmigrant visa program, including by exempting certain workers from an annual numerical limit on such visas.



AAHOA fully supports this legislation and is engaging with Congress to promote its passage.

The Save Hotel Jobs Act (H.R. 3093)

The Save Hotel Jobs Act provides hotel owners with an option to apply for grants they can use for payroll expenses.



AAHOA continues to advocate for this legislation.



TAX REFORM

Preserving Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 Like-Kind Exchanges

Like-kind exchanges are an important source of capital for entrepreneurs, especially hoteliers, as they encourage hoteliers and prospective property owners to purchase new parcels of land, build new hotels, or renovate existing properties.

LKE transactions promote savings and investment, allowing capital to flow freely and efficiently, thereby encouraging commerce, and, ultimately, stimulating our nation's economic growth and job creation.






FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA

SECURING PER DIEM FISCAL YEAR 2023

Every year, the General Services Administration sets the per diem rates, an allowance for federal employees to cover lodging, meals, and incidental expenses incurred while on official travel. The per diem rates for the fiscal year are based on the average daily rate reported by local contractors within a county, ZIP code, or locality.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the lodging industry, leading to record-low ADRs in markets across the country.

 *Official government travel is a vital source of traffic for many hotels, and AAHOA will continue to advocate for competitive rates set independently of distressed ADRs.*

U.S. Representatives Charlie Crist (D-FL) and Bill Posey (R-FL) introduced H.R. 2104, the Restored, Equitable, Coronavirus Adjusted Lodging (RECAL) Act, to require the GSA to lock future federal per diem rates at the pre-pandemic levels.

 *AAHOA fully supports this legislation.*



ADVANCING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Small Business Administration

AAHOA has strengthened its strategic relationship with the Small Business Administration to improve access to capital and implement new relief programs.

The Federal Trade Commission

AAHOA has developed connections in the Federal Trade Commission to address transparency issues related to franchise fees and online travel agency market dominance.



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**STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS HAVE,
IN SOME RESPECTS, A
MORE PROMINENT ROLE
IN DECISION-MAKING
THAN THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT.**

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STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA



States and local governments pass 40,000 or more new laws every year. These laws can drastically impact AAHOA Member businesses, which is why AAHOA's dedicated state and local Government Affairs Team works around the clock to promote and protect the business interests of America's hoteliers.



TOP ISSUES FOR 2022

- *Assisting with workforce development*
- *Combatting unnecessary hotel taxes*
- *Fighting unfair and unnecessary labor mandates*
- *Improving access to capital for hoteliers through American Rescue Plan Act appropriations*
- *Increasing tourism funding and ensuring that money is wisely spent to also benefit smaller hotels*
- *Leveling the playing field with short-term rental platforms and online travel agencies*
- *Pushing for liability protections to shield business owners from frivolous lawsuits while holding bad actors accountable*



ABOUT AAHOA

AAHOA is the largest hotel owners association in the nation, with member-owned properties representing a significant part of the U.S. economy. AAHOA's 20,000 members own 60% of the hotels in the United States and are responsible for 1.7% of the nation's GDP. More than one million employees work at AAHOA Member-owned hotels, earning \$47 billion annually, and member-owned hotels support 4.2 million U.S. jobs across all sectors of the hospitality industry. AAHOA's mission is to advance and protect the business interests of hotel owners through advocacy, industry leadership, professional development, member benefits, and community engagement.



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The latest news related to our
advocacy efforts can be
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THE FOREMOST RESOURCE AND ADVOCATE FOR
AMERICA'S HOTEL OWNERS

