



## January 2016

### CALENDAR

February 9 – Obama Administration releases budget

### NEWS

#### **NTSB Releases 2016 Most Wanted List; Renews Call for .05% BAC Laws in States**

On January 13, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released its [2016 Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements](#). The Most Wanted List represents the NTSB's advocacy priorities for the coming year and “was developed to increase awareness of, and support for, the most critical changes needed to reduce transportation accidents and save lives.”

In addition to many multi-modal recommendations, NTSB called for an [End Substance Impairment in Transportation](#) including a renewed call for states to adopt .05 BAC (or lower) laws. As the NTSB states in its report, “we know that impairment begins before a person’s BAC reaches 0.08 percent, the current legal limit in the United States. In fact, by the time it reaches that level, the risk of a fatal crash has more than doubled. That is why states should lower BAC levels to 0.05— or even lower.”

The report also acknowledges that “impaired driving does not just involve alcohol. Drugs can also affect the ability to drive or operate any vehicle. NTSB investigations have found substance impairment as a cause or a contributing factor in numerous transportation accidents in recent years—and not just on the highway.”

The NTSB report called for “stronger impaired driving laws and increased use of high-visibility enforcement, such as sobriety checkpoints” and “requiring ignition interlocks for all alcohol impaired-driving offenders.” It also acknowledged that “emerging in-vehicle technology, such as the Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety—a system that will use touch-based or breath-based systems to detect driver alcohol use—may one day ensure no drivers operate impaired.”

These recommendations are similar to those introduced by the NTSB in 2013. A move to .05% BAC has been opposed by public safety groups including Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Governors Highway Safety Association. No states have passed .05% BAC legislation to date.

#### **Grammy Group Launches PAC**

The Recording Academy, which runs the Grammy Awards and advocates for music creators in Washington, is launching its own political action committee. With its “Grammy Fund”, the group joins an already crowded field of advocacy organizations in the music licensing and copyright arena, including already-established content creator advocates such as the Recording Industry Association of America, ASCAP and BMI, which each have their own political action committees.

## **ABL WASHINGTON UPDATE**

*Keeping America's Beer, Wine & Spirits Retailers Connected to Congress*

The Grammy Fund plans to raise \$100,000 in 2016 while focusing on “advocating for fair compensation for creators of music” a Grammy Fund spokesman told the New York Times. This comes as the justice Department continues its review of the consent decrees that govern ASCAP and BMI, and a larger conversation surrounding copyright reform takes place on Capitol Hill.

### **Administration FY2017 Budget Includes \$3.9 Bill for Self-Driving Cars**

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx has indicated that the Obama Administration’s fiscal 2017 budget request will include \$3.9 billion over 10 years to help develop self-driving automobiles. The budget request would go for investment in safe-vehicle automation. President Barack Obama is scheduled to release the fiscal 2017 budget request on Feb. 9.

### **Rep. Kathleen Rice Introduces End Drunk Driving Act**

In early January, Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY) introduced the End Drunk Driving Act of 2016 ([H.R. 4373](#)). A longtime advocate against drunk driving dating to her time as a prosecutor on Long Island, Rep. Rice’s bill incorporates language from past drunk driving legislation, such as the D-DROP Act, but also goes further than past stand-alone drunk driving bills.

According to a [press release](#) from Rep. Rice’s office, the bill:

- Requires that within 10 years, all new cars sold in the U.S. must be equipped with advanced technology that prevents the car from moving if the driver’s BAC is at or above the legal limit.
- Boosts funding for the Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety (DADSS) program to help ensure the technology is fully developed within 10 years. (The recently enacted Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which reauthorized our nation’s transportation and traffic safety programs, included \$21 million for DADSS over the next five years. Rice’s legislation would provide DADSS with \$76 million over the next five years, and a total of \$176 million over 10 years.)
- Withholds highway funding from states that don’t have mandatory use of ignition interlock devices for all offenders.

### **Updated U.S. Dietary Guidelines Include Alcohol**

New [recommendations](#) were released in January by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that include moderate alcohol consumption as part of a healthy adult diet. The guidelines recommend that alcohol be limited to one drink per day for women, and two drinks per day for men. One drink is specifically defined as 12 fluid ounces of regular beer (5 percent alcohol), 5 fluid ounces of wine (12 percent alcohol), or 1.5 fluid ounces of 80 proof distilled spirits (40 percent alcohol).

Industry manufacturer groups responded to the news, emphasizing the importance of different aspects of the report:

- “In keeping with the longstanding dietary science, the Guidelines reaffirm that a standard drink of beer, wine and distilled spirits each contains the same amount of alcohol,” [said](#) Dr. Sam Zakhari, Distilled Spirits Council Senior Vice President of Science and former Division Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. “Moderate and responsible beverage alcohol consumption by adults can be part of a healthy lifestyle and diet choice. As with all things, moderation is the key, and the 2015 Dietary Guidelines also make this clear.”

## ABL WASHINGTON UPDATE

*Keeping America's Beer, Wine & Spirits Retailers Connected to Congress*

- “We are pleased that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture have recognized that drink-equivalents are not intended to serve as a standard drink definition for regulatory purposes.” [said](#) Jim McGreevy, CEO, Beer Institute. “The Beer Institute, along with America’s brewers and importers, has led the effort for years in educating the government and consumers in recognizing the importance that a mixed drink may include the equivalent of several light beers.”
- “The new version of the Dietary Guidelines is a positive development for American consumers,” [said](#) NBWA President & CEO Craig Purser. “NBWA is pleased that HHS and USDA have recognized that the definition of a standard drink can be misleading and generate confusion for consumers.”

### Congressional Hospitality Caucus Members

Since its creation in June, the Congressional Hospitality Caucus has steadily been adding members who recognize the importance and role of the hospitality industry in the American economy. ABL thanks those members of Congress who have joined the caucus.

Republican		Democrat	
Rep. Duffy (Co-Chair)	Wisconsin	Rep. Kilmer (Co-Chair)	Washington
Rep. Tiberi	Ohio	Rep. Titus	Nevada
Rep. Dold	Illinois	Rep. Pallone	New Jersey
Rep. Lamar Smith	Texas	Rep. Kennedy	Massachusetts
Rep. Boustany	Louisiana	Rep. Neal	Massachusetts
Rep. Todd Young	Indiana	Rep. Gallego	Arizona
Rep. Pompeo	Kansas	Rep. Clark	Massachusetts
Rep. Amodei	Nevada	Rep. Capuano	Massachusetts
Rep. Curbelo	Florida	Rep. Connolly	Virginia
Rep. Gibbs	Ohio	Rep. Cardenas	California
Rep. Joyce	Ohio	Rep. Keating	Massachusetts
Rep. Bill Johnson	Ohio	Rep. Maloney	New York
Rep. Walberg	Michigan	Rep. Murphy	Florida
Rep. Grothman	Wisconsin	Rep. Kuster	New Hampshire
Rep. Valadao	California	Rep. Larson	Connecticut
Rep. Yoder	Kansas	Rep. Quigley	Illinois
Rep. Hunter	California	Rep. Moulton	Massachusetts
Rep. Stivers	Ohio	Rep. Esty	Connecticut
Rep. Mike Kelly	Pennsylvania	Rep. Delaney	Maryland
Rep. Bost	Illinois	Rep. Israel	New York
Rep. Ross	Florida	Rep. Norcross	New Jersey
Rep. Roby	Alabama	Rep. Robin Kelly	New York
Rep. Crenshaw	Florida	Rep. Torres	California
		Rep. Hank Johnson	Georgia