WEBINAR INSIGHTS

A Tale of Two Politics: An Advocacy Updated from ECA

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. The ongoing **government shutdown** will likely continue through at least the first week of November. TSA agents and air traffic controllers are going unpaid. In recent days, "sick outs" have led to cancelled flights at several airports nationwide.

2. The recent **One Big Beautiful Bill Act** contained several big policy wins for the industry. Along with containing no new harmful tax increases for the industry, it contained two important new provisions that will help us attract and train our next-generation workforce:
   a. Letting lower-income students use Pell Grants to afford high-quality, shorter-term job training programs for the first time.
   b. Transforming 529 plans from college savings plans to career savings plans by expanding eligible expenses to include professional licenses and certifications.

3. **Ever-changing tariffs** and international travel policies are creating headwinds for the industry that will persist into 2026 and beyond.
   a. Tariffs will continue to increase costs for organizers, suppliers, exhibitors, and attendees alike. Next month's Supreme Court case will not eliminate tariffs altogether, but it may create an environment that allows for longer planning horizons.
   b. International travel policies—including country-specific travel bans, increased visa application costs, and persistent visa processing delays—are creating barriers for international attendees and exhibitors to attend U.S. events.

4. While **sustainability and decarbonization** are not on the agenda in Washington, D.C., legislative and regulatory developments in the states will impact operations going forward. One example is the recent delay in implementing California's zero-emission forklift rule.

ECA IS HERE TO HELP ESCA MEMBERS ADVOCATE AND NAVIGATE THE ONGOING POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY:

- ECA Public Policy Update newsletter
- ECA Tariff Resource Center
- ECA Advocacy Network digital advocacy platform
- ECA Legislative Action Day 2026

SPEAKERS

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