

Top level: Attractions play a significant role in the United States, both in terms of their economic impact and as sources of entertainment. They are economic engines, cultural icons, and hubs of innovation that contribute to the vitality and identity of the United States and their local communities. Each facility creates much needed non-exportable jobs, stimulates tourism, and provides communities with both economic and cultural benefits.

Economic Impact:

- Attractions are major economic drivers nationally but also for their local communities. In 2021, this industry generated a total revenue impact of \$52.5 billion USD and over \$7 billion USD in total taxes paid.
- The industry creates a broad range of positions, from entry-level to highly skilled roles with career opportunities that enable even our youngest workers to develop the experience they will need to be successful in our industry or others.
- The jobs we provide support families in communities throughout the areas in which the parks are located.
- Attractions are often the drivers which bring tourists into communities, drawing millions of domestic and international visitors each year 1 that positively impact their local communities and create demand for other local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and shops.

Cultural Significance and Exchange:

- Attractions often showcase elements of American culture and history, providing an educational and entertaining experience for all of the visitors.
- They serve as a reflection of American creativity, innovation, and storytelling.

- International visitors come to experience American culture firsthand through attractions.
- Attractions contribute to cultural exchange and diplomacy by creating opportunities for people from all around the world to connect with Americans.

Education and Innovation:

- Attractions drive innovation in technology, ride design, and entertainment.
- They serve as testing grounds for cutting-edge advancements, which can later be applied in various industries.
- Many attractions incorporate educational elements, making learning fun for all ages.
- They offer opportunities for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education through interactive experiences.

Community Involvement:

- Attractions provide a wholesome environment in which families can spend time together having fun.
- Attractions frequently engage with their communities through philanthropic efforts, events, and partnerships.
- They support local charities and initiatives, fostering positive relationships with residents.

Sustainability & Environmental Conservation:

- Many attractions are committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship.
- They invest in eco-friendly practices, including energy-efficient technologies, waste reduction, and habitat preservation.



ISSUE: The Serious Business of Ride Safety

- Safety is the number one priority for the attractions industry.
- The industry has an excellent safety record and is one of the safest forms of recreation.
- IAAPA promotes the development of amusement ride safety standards, working with ASTM International and other groups worldwide to develop and update industry safety and maintenance requirements.
- IAAPA works with states on an ongoing basis to establish or improve their amusement ride safety regulation according to these consensus-driven safety standards.
- State regulation of amusement ride safety has proven to be more effective than past attempts to extend the jurisdiction of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to include fixed site rides.
- Industry work with standards-setting organizations in conjunction with state and local regulation of rides and devices, has resulted in a consistently strong safety record for the industry.
- **Position:** IAAPA supports strong state ride safety regulation based on the standards developed by ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices.

ISSUE: Workforce Challenges

- The attractions industry, like so many others around the country, has been plagued by workforce shortages. While the Nation's low unemployment numbers are contributing to this, there are longer-term, more systemic issues impacting seasonal employers.
- The dropping birthrate and competing interests for young people, such as year-around sports, college prep classes, summer classes and internships have contributed to a nearly 20% decline in the workforce since 1970.

- To meet their employment needs, industry has invested in enhanced recruitment, increased employment incentives, and increased wages. Yet every year positions go unfilled, creating the need to limit facility hours, limit days open and limit offerings all of which impact our revenue and impact the guest experience.
- The H-2B and J-1 Summer Work Travel visa programs provide a supplement to our workforce. These positions are necessary to keep our facility open and supporting our ability to maintain our American workforce.
- The attractions industry has been a long-time partner with the State Department in its BridgeUSA Summer Work Travel (SWT) program. This program provides a cultural exchange experience that is rich in exposure to American culture and enhances America's diplomacy at virtually no cost to the taxpayer, while simultaneously providing a small, but important, supplement to the industry's seasonal workforce.
- The statistics speak for themselves, over 75% of SWT exchange visitors report having a positive experience in the U.S. while 50% of employers have reported that a lack of SWT exchange visitors negatively impacts their revenue and 39% indicated they would have to reduce hours without SWT exchange visitors.
- **Position:** Support certainty in the J-1 Visa Summer Work Travel Exchange Visitor program by ensuring all visas are processed in a timely manner, significant changes are not made to the program discouraging its use, and the program is allowed to grow. Provide additional H-2B short-term non-immigrant worker eligibility by making the returning worker exemption permanent.
- **Ask:** Cosponsor the bipartisan House Resolution 901 sponsored by Representatives Moore (R-UT) and Kuster (D-NH) supporting the BridgeUSA SWT program. Additionally, continue to oppose amendments to the State Foreign Operations annual Appropriations bill that harm the program.



ISSUE: UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

- The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) estimates that by 2024, the U.S. will have 2.3 million unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) operating in the nation's airspace. The attractions industry has an interest in the use of UAS for safety inspection and entertainment purposes. It also has an interest in protecting the safety and security of its guests and workers by strictly limiting the use of unauthorized drones above and around its facilities
- In the FAA Extension, Safety and Security Act of 2016, Congress required the FAA to establish a process to allow certain fixed-site facilities (including amusement parks) to petition the FAA to prohibit or restrict the operation of unauthorized drones above or in close proximity to their property (Section 2209). Congress underscored its interest in this issue in the FAA reauthorization of 2018. The FAA continues to work on this rule, but it has not yet been issued.
- The House-passed 2023 FAA reauthorization bill, Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act (H.R. 3935) included a provision, supported by IAAPA, requiring the FAA to initiate this rule by March 1, 2024.
- Critical Infrastructure, particularly the entities enumerated in Section 2209, need robust law enforcement detection and mitigation of UAS incursions and need the ability to work with law enforcement to support these efforts. Congress is currently working on extending the detection and mitigation authority through the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2023 (S. 1631/H.R. 4333), which reauthorizes existing law and expands law enforcement authority for mitigation and detection and establishes a procedure for private sector critical infrastructure to support law enforcement.
- **Position:** IAAPA supports the UAS provisions in the House-passed FAA reauthorization H.R. 3935 which continues congressional support requiring the FAA to develop a process for enumerated facilities, such as amusement parks, to petition the FAA to restrict the operation of UAS over and in close proximity to fixed-site facilities in the interest of safety. IAAPA also supports expanding state and local law enforcement authority, and critical infrastructure's role, in the Preventing Emerging Threats Act of 2018

reauthorization through the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2023.

- **Ask:** Urge the FAA to publish the guidelines required in Section 2209, establishing a process to allow designated applicants to petition the FAA to restrict the operation of UAS in close proximity to certain fixed site facilities. Urge Congress to pass the Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2022 which will provide the enhanced federal, state and local enforcement capability needed to detect and mitigate UAS incursions.

ISSUE: HEAT INJURY AND ILLNESS PREVENTION

- On October 7, 2021, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings (RIN 1218-AD39). On January 26, 2022, IAAPA submitted comments urging OSHA to carefully evaluate this multi-faceted issue, focus its resources on industries with high rates of heat illness and injury, defer to voluntary standards where they exist, and avoid taking a one-size fits all approach to regulation.
- Effective regulation in this area will take time, and substantial stakeholder involvement. IAAPA applauds OSHA's approach to begin this process with an ANPRM which enables the agency to gather important information from stakeholders early in the rulemaking process, however IAAPA believes that OSHA should focus resources where needed and defer to industry practices and standards, where proven effective by low incident rate.
- **Position:** IAAPA believes heat injury and illness prevention is a serious and complicated issue that deserves a serious and scientific evaluation by the expert agency. The agency should: spend time and resources educating industries; defer to proven industry voluntary standards; focus resources on industries with a high incident rate of heat illness and injury; avoid a "one-size-fits-all" approach; and take a serious and scientific approach to any regulation in this area.
- **Ask:** Oppose H.R. 4897/S. 2501, the Asuncion Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act.