

The Independent Bakers Association (IBA) began its Fall Meeting on September 28th at the Las Vegas Convention Center. **IBA Chairman Jordon Hale** kicked off the meeting where he welcomed the attendees, summarized the day's agenda and called roll. Meeting attendees greeted each other and discussed current events. **Guy Moos of Baker Boys** read the meeting minutes which **IBA Second Vice-Chair Ron Tremayne of AB Mauri** motions to approved. **Scott Barth** seconded Ron Tremayne's motion.

IBA President Nick Pyle and **IBA General Counsel Elizabeth Velandar** provided the industry update, in which they discussed supply chain issues. Ms. Velandar attributed most supply chain issues to labor challenges and natural disasters. Analysts believe that workers are currently living off of their savings and will be back to work soon. Nick Pyle added that truck driver shortages add additional strain to the supply chain. Ron Tremayne explained that this shortage is partially because of truck drivers unwilling to drive into California as they became paid by the hour and not by the mile. Nick Pyle believed that the shortage may be eased by a part of the Reconciliation Bill that allows for 18-year-old truck drivers to cross state lines.

Ron Tremayne added that there are issues with ingredient availability. The price of gluten has gone up simply due to transportation costs. There is also a shortage of vegetable oil, due to Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) blending requirements and additional regulations that make it cheaper to sell ethanol to the oil industry versus food. **Adolph Postel of the Cajun Chitt** agreed and said that he experienced three price increases in the span of months. Ron Tremayne spoke about the measures he took to inform his Senators and Governor of the problem. Elizabeth Velandar said that there are measures in the Infrastructure Bill to deal with biofuel vending.

Nick Pyle gave an update on the Checkoff Proposal. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) received the grains food checkoff proposal and will likely publish it soon. After publication, there will be opportunity for comment. After the comment period, USDA will review the comments and decide whether to proceed. Questions remain about what the check off entails exactly and what will be exempted, such as frozen dough. [The proposal was published September 30th.](#)

Nick Pyle and Elizabeth Velandar moved on the Washington Report, which covered the vaccine mandate, the Infrastructure Bill, Reconciliation Bill, and independent contractors. Elizabeth Velandar explained that Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) is still working to create rules that implement Biden's Executive Order on the vaccine mandate for employers. This Executive Order calls for all federal employees and contractors to receive a vaccine within 75 days or be terminated, without the alternative of regular tests. In the private sector, if an employer has 100+ employees, the employer must require its employees to either be vaccinated or tested regularly. There is backlash to this bill with teachers and medical staff refusing vaccination and there are mounting lawsuits challenging it.

Nick Pyle moved on to the Infrastructure Bill. The price tag of the bill remains \$3.5 trillion and proposes to increase infrastructure spending by \$550 billion over five years. The bill includes provisions designed to boost the resiliency of the agricultural supply chain, including investments in cybersecurity and an apprenticeship pilot program to address the nationwide truck

driver shortage. The bill has the potential to enhance the efficient and cost-effective transport of agricultural food products resulting in substantial contributions and opportunities for U.S. growth and trade.

The discussion shifted to the topic of the Reconciliation Bill. Democrats are trying to pass a \$1.2 trillion social spending, tax, and environment package. The bill currently includes tax-increases and pro-union language. The Senate Parliamentarian said some aspects of it violated the Byrd Rule as not everything in the bill is directly related to federal spending. The Democrats blame the Republicans for the bill not passing, while Republicans argue that the bill cannot be passed as not everything in it relates to public spending. Ron Tremayne questioned whether President Joseph Biden or Vice-President Kamala Harris have been involved. Elizabeth Velander answered that both the President and the Vice-President have been hands off, though President Biden met with Senators Machin and Sinema.

Topic then moved to the issue of Independent Contractor. The Reconciliation bill would create fines for misclassifying workers as independent contractors. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) General Counsel has signaled efforts to reverse the pro-business policies of the Trump administration, including decisions on a variety of topics from employee classification to union rules. The Modern Workers Empowerment Act counters these measures.

Nick Pyle moved discussion on to upcoming elections. Two major elections to watch for their “off-year” are the Virginia and New Jersey Governor elections. Nick Pyle predicted that the big themes for these elections and midterm elections will be crime and chaos in the cities, cybersecurity, inflation and the economy, and foreign policy, especially Afghanistan. While these issues will play a role, it is too early to tell whether or not the new voting laws passed in Georgia and Texas will affect Democrat turnout. The battleground states are Arizona, Florida, Georgia, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Nick Pyle added that with the exception of the George W. Bush and Clinton administrations, the party in power usually loses the House and the Senate.

At 8:30 am Ron Treymayne introduced **Steve Sebelius, Government & Politics Editor of the Las Vegas-Review Journal**. Steve Sebelius explained the political landscape of Nevada highlighting interesting. He showed that the political parties in Nevada have split. The traditional Democrats are fighting for control with the Democratic Socialists, while Republicans are facing their own fractioning. Meanwhile Nevada is allowing people to register as Non-Decided rather than Independent. Nevada is also setting up for the governor's race. Currently the two big contenders are incumbent Governor Steve Sisolak and Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo. After the discussion with Steve Sebelius, Jordon Hale adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthony Turano, IBA Secretary