



From the Editor

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Recently, governments at all levels have indeed turned to increased legislation to seek to solve many problems within society. Whether it is providing equal access to the disabled, an effort to create greater access to affordable healthcare for employees, or attempting to balance out of balance governmental budgets through increased taxation measures, hoteliers can be sure of one thing, government is not taking a hands-off approach to how business is being conducted nowadays.

The Lodging Industry faces many new challenges now and in the immediate future: more intensive ADA requirements, increased scrutiny by OSHA inspectors, higher occupancy tax levies from local governments, more thorough reviews of tax filings, and even greater scrutiny of work eligibility for employees in southern border states such as Arizona and California.

What does this mean for hoteliers? Obviously, hotel managers must commit to being extremely vigilant in how they manage their properties, interact with government agencies, and lead their employees. Hotel managers must know both the new and existing laws and follow them to the letter, or face the consequences. Hotel managers must realize that governments need their tax revenues and will not stop short in an attempt to collect them. And if lower hotel revenues result in diminished occupancy tax returns, hoteliers should expect that governments will seek out new avenues of taxes and fees from businesses. Tough economic times make for tough economic consequences and increased legislation all around.

TRC will continue to keep our readers updated on those issues that will affect them at the operational level, and offer our recommendations for compliance and cost-savings measures as appropriate.



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Executive Editor