

TCIA ISSUE BRIEF

Creating a Practical Business Climate for Tree Care Companies



Business Competitiveness & Regulatory Environment

Tree care companies help keep communities safe, maintain critical infrastructure, and preserve the health of America's urban and community forests. To do that effectively, businesses must navigate a range of transportation, workforce, environmental, and licensing requirements.

Well-designed regulations help protect public safety and promote professional standards. However, regulations can become obstacles when they are unclear, duplicative, or disconnected from the realities of tree care operations.

☑ TCIA supports practical, balanced policies that protect the public while enabling tree care companies to grow, invest, and serve their communities.

Why It Matters

Most tree care companies are small and medium-sized businesses that operate in a highly regulated environment. Business owners must manage requirements related to transportation, workforce management, workplace safety, environmental compliance, and licensing. Excessive complexity and regulatory uncertainty can increase costs, hinder workforce development, and divert resources away from investments in employees, equipment, and safety.

A clear and predictable regulatory environment helps businesses plan for the future, operate efficiently, and continue delivering the essential services communities depend on.

TCIA's Position - TCIA supports policies that:

- Promote clarity, consistency, and predictability in regulatory requirements.
- Maintain high standards of public safety and professional accountability.
- Reduce unnecessary administrative burdens.
- Support workforce mobility and operational flexibility.
- Encourage business growth and investment.
- Recognize the unique operating conditions of tree care companies.
- Provide opportunities for industry input during policy development.

Strong businesses are better positioned to invest in safety, workforce development, innovation, and customer service.

Areas of Focus

Commercial Driver's Licenses and Transportation Regulations

Transportation is essential to tree care operations. Tree care companies regularly transport employees, specialized equipment, and materials between jobsites while responding to routine work and emergency situations. Regulations affecting commercial driver's licenses (CDLs), vehicle classifications, and equipment transportation can have a significant impact on business operations and workforce availability.

☑ **TCIA supports transportation policies that maintain public safety while recognizing the unique needs of tree care companies.**

State Arborist Licensure Proposals

As awareness of professional tree care continues to grow, policymakers occasionally consider licensing requirements for arborists and tree care professionals. Professional standards can promote competency and public confidence, but licensing programs should avoid creating unnecessary barriers to entering the profession or operating a business.

☑ **TCIA supports approaches that encourage education, training, and professionalism while maintaining reasonable access to the profession.**

Regulatory Efficiency and Administrative Burden

Tree care businesses must comply with numerous permitting, reporting, documentation, and recordkeeping requirements.

☑ **TCIA supports efforts to modernize regulations, reduce unnecessary duplication, and ensure requirements remain practical and proportionate to their intended purpose.**

Effective regulations should protect the public while allowing businesses to focus resources on safety, workforce development, and customer service.

Consistency and Regulatory Certainty

Business decisions—whether hiring employees, purchasing equipment, or investing in growth—depend on predictable operating conditions. Frequent regulatory changes, conflicting requirements, or inconsistent interpretations can create uncertainty and complicate planning.

☑ **TCIA supports greater transparency, coordination, and consistency in the development and implementation of regulatory requirements.**

Small Business Considerations

The tree care industry is largely composed of independent businesses and family-owned companies. Policymakers should consider how new regulations affect businesses of different sizes and strive to achieve policy objectives without imposing unnecessary burdens on small employers.

☑ **TCIA supports practical solutions that protect public interests while allowing businesses to remain competitive and sustainable.**

Looking Forward

Tree care companies provide essential services that support public safety, environmental stewardship, infrastructure reliability, and community well-being.

A balanced regulatory environment helps businesses operate efficiently while maintaining high standards of professionalism and accountability. By promoting clarity, consistency, and practical solutions, policymakers can help create conditions that support business growth, workforce development, and continued investment throughout the industry.

Strong businesses are better equipped to hire employees, improve safety, adopt new technologies, and serve the communities that depend on them.

Protect Crews. Strengthen Businesses. Grow the Industry.

About TCIA Issue Briefs

TCIA Issue Briefs provide an overview of priority issues affecting the tree care industry and the Tree Care Industry Association's policy positions. These briefs are intended for educational purposes and may be updated as industry conditions, regulatory developments, and policy priorities evolve.