HOMELAND SECURITY

As a critical part of the nation’s infrastructure, real estate continues to face an array of threats from natural catastrophes, international and domestic terrorism, criminal activity, cyber-attacks and border security. To address such threats, The Roundtable continues to help build a more secure and resilient industry against both physical and cyber threats. The Roundtable also advocates for legislation to promote workplace safety as we continue to recover from the pandemic.

Securing High Profile Assets and Improving Preparedness: Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF)

The Roundtable works with various federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies through its Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF). The Task Force identifies, analyzes, and advocates positions on physical and cyber security policy affecting the real estate community and commercial facilities sector in relevant homeland security and intelligence issue areas. In addition to working with relevant law enforcement and intelligence agencies, the HSTF is working to find new sources and methods to secure high-profile commercial facility sector assets and improve their emergency preparedness. In October 2020, the HSTF held a meeting on election-related security issues with representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Domestic Terrorism Operations Section, Counterterrorism Division.

An Essential Security Conduit Between the Public and Private Sector: The Real Estate Information Sharing and Analysis Center (RE-ISAC)

The Real Estate Information Sharing and Analysis Center (RE-ISAC) is a public-private partnership between the U.S. commercial facilities sector and...
federal homeland security officials organized by The Real Estate Roundtable in February 2003. Information sharing — in a systematic and sustained manner — continues to be one of the most effective weapons in protecting the nation’s critical infrastructure. The RE-ISAC serves as the primary conduit of terrorism, cyber and natural hazard warning and response information between the government and the commercial facilities sector. Through the work of the HSTF and RE-ISAC, The Roundtable regularly updates its members on cyber, criminal and physical threats and how to appropriately implement security measures to help mitigate risks. The RE-ISAC proactively manages risk and strengthens the security and resilience of the U.S. commercial facilities sector infrastructure to aid protection and prevention. This past year, the RE-ISAC created an online resource for election-related threats and updates, both physical and cyber, called U.S. & Election 2020.

Planning the Nation’s Return to Work: The Building Re-Entry Working Group

In May 2020, The Roundtable established a Building Re-Entry Working Group to address issues associated with building re-entry as the economy began to re-open. Since then, the Building Re-Entry Working Group has been working with industry partners, building owners, managers and security staff to develop a strategy for building re-entry and address legal liability issues. The Roundtable has also been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop health-related standards and essential measures to safely enable tenants and customers to re-enter commercial properties. This past year, The Roundtable advocated for COVID-19 safe working conditions. The Roundtable lobbied Congress on the Safe to Work Act and the Healthy Workplaces Tax Credit Act. During the 2020 Annual Meeting, The Roundtable hosted the “Reopening the Economy, Returning to the Workplace, Reinforcing Health Protections” panel, which featured leading industry executives who discussed reopening strategies, operational protocols, and potential liability concerns. In July 2020, Roundtable Board Member and Sustainability Policy Advisory Committee Chair Tony Malkin (Chairman and CEO, Empire State Realty Trust, Inc.) was interviewed on CNBC to discuss safety protocols and measures that can be utilized to guide reopening businesses.

As a member of the Senate Budget, Finance, and Select Committee on Intelligence, Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) discussed bipartisan congressional efforts on national security threats, infrastructure, and return-to-work issues.