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HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER HINTS AT RFS REFORM IN 2017

While not going into specifics, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) indicated that RFS reform will likely be in the cards this year. This is welcome news for petroleum marketers as there is a growing chorus in Congress to finally fix the corn ethanol mandate which has led to higher prices at the pump and interferes with petroleum marketers' ability to compete in the retail motor fuels market.

Last year, a bill that would cap the ethanol mandate at 9.7 percent of the retail gasoline supply garnered 118 cosponsors. It is expected that the "Food and Fuel Consumer Protection Act of 2016" will be reintroduced this year giving Congress momentum to address the broken corn ethanol mandate. The bill would resolve UST compatibility concerns with E10 plus blends, and more importantly, reduce RIN prices which will result in lower RFS compliance costs for refiners and preserve the ability for position holders at the rack to blend.

PMAA will continue to take a lead role in getting this simple solution passed into law. PMAA members began aggressively pushing for the bill last May during PMAA's Day on the Hill which resulted in many new cosponsors of the legislation.

SENATE MOVES CLOSER TO REPEALING OBAMACARE

Senate Republicans took their first major step toward repealing Obamacare on Thursday, approving by a vote of 51-48 a budget blueprint that would allow them to repeal the health care law without the threat of a Democratic filibuster.

The approval of the budget blueprint shows just how quick Republican leaders are moving to fulfill their promise to repeal President Obama's signature health care law, a goal they believe can now be accomplished after Trump's election.

The action by the Senate is essentially procedural, setting the stage for a reconciliation bill. A reconciliation bill can be used to repeal significant parts of the health law and is protected from being filibustered.

The House will take up the budget blueprint today, though some House Republicans have expressed skepticism with voting on the blueprint this week because of lingering questions over how and when the health care law would be replaced.

HOUSE PASSES REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT***The Last Piece of a Regulatory Trifecta***

On Wednesday, the House passed by a vote of 238-183 the "Regulatory Accountability Act" (RAA), which would modernize the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), whose rulemaking provisions have barely changed since its 1946 enactment. The RAA would increase the notification requirements in advance of proposed rulemaking, require more reports to the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), mandate that regulators calculate the impact of new rules on small businesses and eliminate judicial deference to agencies when bills are challenged.

This is the third and final bill designed to bring transparency, accountability, and integrity to the rulemaking process at federal agencies. Last week, the House passed the "Midnight Rules Relief Act" by a vote of 238-164, which allows Congress to repeal multiple executive-branch regulations at once. The House also passed the "Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act," which requires Congressional approval for regulations that are expected to have an economic impact of at least \$100 million per year.

Unfortunately, these bills will face an uphill battle to get the 60 votes necessary to pass in the Senate. With a 52-48 slim GOP majority, 8 democrats would need to side with the GOP to pass the legislation.

HOUSE BILL PASSES WITH PROVISION TO REPEAL SPECULATIVE POSITION LIMITS

Yesterday, the House passed H.R.238, known as the "Commodity End-User Relief Act", by a vote of 239-182. The bill passed with an amendment by Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-TX), which would repeal requirements that the CFTC impose limits on speculative trading in energy commodities.

PMAA is working with members of the Commodities Market Oversight Coalition (CMOC) towards protecting position limits.

WALMART CANADA ENDS BAN OF VISA CREDIT CARDS

On Monday, Walmart Canada Stores announced a January 6, 2017 end to the company's VISA credit card ban.

In June, Walmart Canada announced that it would stop accepting Visa credit cards at three of its stores and expanded to 16 stores in October 2016. Walmart did so because interchange fees applied to Visa credit card purchases remained unacceptably high. For standard VISA retail purchases made in-store, fees ranged from 1.42 to 2.08 percent. Meanwhile, the fees for MasterCard's purchases at independent retailers range from 1.44 to 2 percent, and MasterCard offers lower

rates to retailers the size of Walmart. Both Walmart and Visa declined to share details about the agreement although Walmart continues to believe the fees charged by Visa and other credit-card companies are too high.

Like the Merchants Payment Coalition (MPC) in the U.S., the Retail Council of Canada (RCC) is pushing for a permanent regulatory solution to high interchange fees, urging Parliament to support legislation that seeks to empower the minister of finance to cap interchange rates like countries such as Australia, Switzerland and Israel have done.

PMAA and the MPC are committed to achieving full swipe fee reform. American retailers pay the highest swipe fees of all the developed countries—up to 4 percent in credit-card swipe fees. That's a 10,000 percent profit margin, since the transaction costs the bank only a few cents. For petroleum marketers, swipe fees are the highest expense other than payroll.

FEDERATED INSURANCE SPONSORED WEBINAR: A TOP 10 LIST TO STAY AWAY FROM! ON JANUARY 17 AT 2:00PM EST

On **January 17, 2017**, Federated is pleased to provide your members access to a 30 minute complimentary webinar titled **"A Top 10 List to Stay Away From!"** This webinar will take a look at OSHA's Top Ten violations for 2016. More importantly, however, it will focus on risk management policies, procedures, training, resources, and implementation to help reduce employee accidents and injuries!

Advance Registration is required. A recorded version of the webinar will be available [here](https://www.federatedinsurance.com/ws/fi/InsuranceResources/index.htm) (https://www.federatedinsurance.com/ws/fi/InsuranceResources/index.htm) for 60 days approximately one week after the live session if you are interested, but unable to attend.

For additional information or to discuss this in further detail, please contact your Federated regional representative or PMAA's National Account Executive Jerry Leemkuil at 800.533.0472.

PMAA'S WASHINGTON CONFERENCE 2017 HOTEL RESERVATIONS ARE OPEN

PMAA's annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill will be held in our Nation's Capital of Washington, DC from May 17-19. The meeting will begin with an Opening Session / Issues Briefing and Region meetings in the afternoon of May 17. Our welcome reception, including our fun and popular PAC silent auction fundraiser, will conclude the day! On the morning of May 18, marketers will head to Capitol Hill for visits with their Congressional delegations after a buffet breakfast and an issues briefing for those who were not able to attend the opening session. Please be sure to make these Hill appointments at your earliest convenience. There will be a hospitality suite and luncheon on the Hill. On the evening of May 18, we will honor our new PMAA Chair Mark Whitehead. Our conference will conclude after the PMAA Board of Directors meet on May 19 following a buffet breakfast and committee meetings. You can find all available details for Washington Conference and Day on the Hill [here](http://www.pmaa.org/meetings/upcomingmeetings/) (http://www.pmaa.org/meetings/upcomingmeetings/). Registration will open soon and will be posted on this page and announced in the Weekly Review.

Please make your plans now to attend this important and productive forum to meet with your members of Congress and network with other marketers from across the country! See you in DC in the spring!

THE WPMA SCHOLARSHIP SILENT AUCTION IS GOING HIGH-TECH!

New in 2017, you can bid on silent auction items from your phone!

With any type of mobile device, you can browse auction items, place bids, and pay for your items with the tap of a finger. Should any guest feel technologically-challenged, our WPMA Staff members will be there to offer hands-on assistance at any time.

Here are some of the great features of our new online auction -

- Receive Instant Outbid Notifications
- *BUY IT NOW* Pricing Will Still be Available
- Bid Winners Receive Notification of Their Winning Bid
- Pay for Your Purchases on Your Phone
- Bid from Anywhere
- Access through WPMAEXPO App - No Extra App Required!

Please donate an item to the 2017 Silent Auction - help make this the best auction ever!

To donate an item to the 2017 Scholarship Silent Auction, download a form at www.wpma.com/scholarship and return it to kathym@wpma.com, or fax to 801-262-9413, no later than January 22, so that brochures can be printed in time for the convention.

We hope to have your support in this worthwhile endeavor!

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS APPROACHING!

The time is fast approaching when the WPMA scholarship recipients for 2017 will be selected. **March 1, 2017 is the cut-off date** for applications to be postmarked and mailed to the WPMA office. Usually, there are less than 15 applicants for each WPMA state scholarship and the associate member scholarship, which makes the chances of receiving a scholarship very good. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors, and the son or daughter of a full-time employee of a WPMA member or associate member company. Applicant qualification information and the scholarship applications and are available to download at <http://www.wpma.com/pdf/scholarship/Scholarship-Application102016-e.pdf> Scholarship applications are also available from the WPMA office by e-mailing kathym@wpma.com and requesting an application. The WPMA scholarships pay \$500 per semester for up to eight semesters, for a maximum award of \$4,000. **Employers, please remind your employees to request or download an application right away, and give their students a chance for some extra financial help in college!**

2017 WPMAEXPO - LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

WPMAEXPO

Mark your calendars for February 21-23, 2017. Make plans now to attend the 2017 WPMAEXPO. It will be held once again at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Thank You **WPMAEXPO** 2017 TOP SPONSORS

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

February 21-23, 2017 – WPMA Convention & Expo – Mirage Hotel– Las Vegas, Nevada

March 1, 2017 – Utah (UPMRA) Day on Capitol Hill – Salt Lake City, Utah

May 4-5, 2017– Nevada (NPM&CSA) Big Dogs Shootout – TBD, Nevada

June 6-8, 2017 – Montana (MPMCSA) Convention – Northern Hotel – Billings, Montana

June 19-22, 2017 – Washington (WOMA) Convention – Suncadia Resort – Cle Elum, Washington

June 22, 2017 – Utah (UPMRA) Summer Classic PAC Golf Outing – TBD, Utah

August 2-4, 2017 – Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention – Sun Valley Resort – Sun Valley, Idaho

August 21-23, 2017 – New Mexico (NMPMA) Convention – Sandia Resort – Albuquerque, New Mexico

September 13-15, 2017 – Utah (UPMRA) Convention – Zermatt Resort – Midway, Utah

June 18-21, 2018 – Washington (WOMA) Convention – Suncadia Resort – Cle Elum, Washington

August 8-10, 2018 – Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention – Coeur d'Alene Resort – Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

NPP WPMA MEMBER SERVICE

WPMA has partnered with NPP to provide members discounts on many products and services. NPP negotiates the rates, and makes them available to WPMA members. Membership with NPP is free, and there is no obligation to purchase. Discounts through Verizon, Expedia, Fastenal, Cradlepoint, and more.

Register Now: <https://associations.mynpp.com/myNPP/memberSavings.xhtml?guid=RB3WUOFG>

WPMA MEMBER SERVICES



Be sure to subscribe to all of our social channels for great tips, industry trends, and insider information about association activities and upcoming events!



Petro Pete: *“My New Years resolution is to help all my friends to gain 10 pounds so I look skinnier.”*

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