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PMAA TO TESTIFY BEFORE SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE

On Tuesday, PMAA president Dan Gilligan will testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The full committee hearing will focus on how motor fuels and heating oil prices are being impacted by the boom in domestic oil production and the restructuring of the U.S. refining industry and distribution system.

In addition to outlining the current structure of the refining and distribution system, in particular the movement of the major integrated oil companies away from direct ownership of the retail market, Gilligan will focus his testimony on what factors contribute to the cost of gasoline and heating oil at the rack. The price of crude and the role of excess speculation in the futures market, particularly the delay in finalizing position limits on crude oil futures contracts, and the need to approve the Keystone XL pipeline are included in his testimony. Further, PMAA testimony addresses some of the issues surrounding E-15 and the federal ethanol mandate.

Additionally, Gilligan plans to highlight planned and unplanned refinery outages and the need for dedicated funding for the Coordination of Planned Refinery Outages Program at EIA, the role of interchange fees and taxes as well as pipeline disruptions and national disasters which also impact motor fuels and heating oil prices.

Other witnesses are: EIA Administrator Adam Sieminski; Jeff Hume, vice chairman for Strategic Growth Initiatives at Continental Resources Inc.; Faisal Khan, managing director, Integrated Oil & Gas Research at Citigroup Inc; Bill Kleese, chairman and CEO of Valero Energy Corp.; and Chris Plaushin, director of federal relations at the American Automobile Association.

HOUSE PASSES FARM BILL WITHOUT SNAP (FOOD STAMP) TITLE**Includes Farmer SPCC Exemptions**

On Thursday, the House passed a revamped five-year farm bill reauthorization without the SNAP (food stamp) title by a vote of 216 – 208. The House may move a separate bill on the SNAP (food stamp) provisions. The Senate has already passed its farm bill version by a bipartisan vote of 66 – 27. Included in the Senate-passed version's SNAP (food stamp) title was harmful language which could preclude convenience stores from accepting SNAP (food stamps). If the House and Senate farm bills eventually go to Conference Committee, PMAA will work with lawmakers to strike the current language in the Senate farm bill.

The modified House farm bill contains all the amendments adopted on the floor last month which means Representative Rick Crawford's (R-AR) amendment to increase threshold sizes for Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) regulation at the farm level, and allow more farms to self-certify was included. It provides an exemption from the SPCC rule to any farmer who has less than 42,000 total gallons of oil storage capacity and no single tank larger than 10,000 gallons.

GM TO EXPAND HYBRID AND ELECTRIC EFFORTS

General Motors announced plans to put 500,000 vehicles with some form of electric technology on U.S. roads by 2017. Currently, GM produces two electric plug-in vehicles: the Chevrolet Volt and the all-electric Spark EV. However, only a small percentage of the 500,000 electrified vehicles GM plans to sell are all electric plug-ins.

The bulk of GM's electrified vehicles will come equipped with its new electric hybrid technology called "eAssist". These "mild" hybrid vehicles run on gasoline but also contain a compact lithium-ion battery and a small electric motor that allow the engine to turn off when the vehicle is at rest, capture and reuse braking energy, and assist the gasoline engine during acceleration or on inclines. The new eAssist option will be installed on a range of Buick and Chevrolet models at a cost of \$2,000. Adding eAssist provides a 25 percent improvement in fuel economy at a fraction of the cost of a full hybrid, according to GM. The new eAssist technology and recent improvements in gasoline engine technology will help GM meet another ambitious goal; doubling the number of models it offers that achieve 40 mpg or better in highway driving by 2017. Some of GM's non-electrified vehicles can already meet or surpass 40 mpg.

EIA PROVIDES INTERACTIVE MAPS FOR REAL TIME STORM DATA

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has developed interactive maps for public use that combine real-time data feeds from the National Hurricane Center and 20 map layers of the nation's energy infrastructure and resources.

The data is available around the clock to keep users informed during extreme weather events. Currently the site shows the predicted path of tropical storm Chantal, moving from the Caribbean's Leeward Islands toward the Atlantic coast of Florida.

To view new maps, please [click here](http://www.eia.gov/special/disruptions/) (http://www.eia.gov/special/disruptions/).

JOIN PMAA IN ATLANTA THIS OCTOBER

PMAA will hold its Fall Meeting on October 11-12 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. Please view current information at <http://www.pmaa.org/pmaameetings/upcomingmeetings.asp>.

2014 WESTERN PETROLEUM MARKETERS CONVENTION & CONVENIENCE STORE EXPO LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Start planning now to attend the 2014 WPMA Convention and Convenience Store Expo. It will be held at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mark your calendars for **February 18-20, 2014**.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2013

July 31-August 2, 2013 - Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention - Sun Valley Resort - Sun Valley, Idaho

August 27-29, 2013 – New Mexico (NMPMA) Convention – Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, Albuquerque, NM

September 12-13, 2013 - Utah (UPMRA) Convention - Zermatt Resort - Midway, UT

Petro Pete: *“There’s a great power in words, if you don’t hitch too many of them together.”*

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