

November 13, 2015

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WP-11-13-15

**HOUSE AND SENATE HIGHWAY BILL CONFEREES NAMED**

House and then Senate transportation bill conferees were named this week. Following are the members of both chambers who are to make up the conference committee: Representatives John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-TN); Sam Graves (R-MO); Candice Miller (R-MI); Rick Crawford (R-AR); Lou Barletta (R-PA); Blake Farenthold (R-TX); Bob Gibbs (R-OH); Jeff Denham (R-CA); Reid Ribble (R-WI); Scott Perry (R-PA); Rob Woodall (R-GA); John Katko (R-NY); Brian Babin (R-TX); Cresent Hardy (R-NV) and Garret Graves (R-LA); Jerrold Nadler (D-NY); Corrine Brown (D-FL); Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX); Elijah Cummings (D-MD); Rick Larsen (D-WA); Michael Capuano (D-MA); Grace Napolitano (D-CA); Daniel Lipinski (D-IL); Steve Cohen (D-TN); Albio Sires (D-NJ) and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC). Senators Jim Inhofe (R-OK); John Thune (R-SD); Orrin Hatch (R-UT); Lisa Murkowski (R-AK); Deb Fischer (R-NE); John Barrasso (R-WY); John Cornyn (R-TX); Barbara Boxer (D-CA); Bill Nelson (D-FL); Ron Wyden (D-OR); Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY).

***House Amendment Likely to Cover Full Cost of Highway Bill***

The original House transportation bill would have paid for just three years of funding, but an amendment adopted at the last minute could add an additional \$40 billion which could pay for five years of the bill. The legislation, known as the "Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015," must now be conferenced with the Senate passed bill which also authorizes six years of funding, but only pays for three years. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe is open to funding the bill for five years. As predicted by PMAA, no gas tax increases were included in the bills. Highway policy expires on November 20, so Congress must complete work on a conference report to prevent a gap in highway funding.

Meanwhile, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported this week that prior to Congress raising the fund to \$12 billion in July, the fund reached its lowest level in decades at \$6.1 billion. For fiscal 2015, the average monthly net tax receipt was roughly \$3 billion, while the average monthly outlay was almost \$4 billion.

**PMAA JOINS MULTI-ASSOCIATION LETTER TO CONGRESS OPPOSING OZONE RULING**

Last week, PMAA continued its campaign against a reduced ozone standard by joining other associations in sending a letter to Congress expressing our opposition to the recent ruling on the new ozone standard that has been set at 70 parts per billion. Under the previous 75ppb standard, 474 counties in the United States were in nonattainment. It is estimated that, under the new standard of 70 ppb, 958 counties will be forced into nonattainment status.

A county in nonattainment means that the air quality in the region does not meet the standards of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and could therefore be subject to less federal funding. Additionally, it causes extra hurdles for counties including infrastructure development problems and regulations on emissions of existing businesses within the region, forcing them to pay for costly emission reducing equipment to try and reach attainment status.

**SMALL BUSINESS HEALTHCARE RELIEF ACT GAINING BIPARTISAN SUPPORT**

This week, Senators Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Congressmen Charles Boustany (R-LA) and Mike Thompson (D-CA) introduced bipartisan legislation (S.1697 and H.R. 2911) referred to as the Small Business Healthcare Relief Act (SBHRA).

As a result of a September 2013 guidance issued jointly by the Department of Treasury, Health and Human Services, and the Department of Labor, small business owners have been limited in their ability to use stand-alone health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs) to assist employees with out-of-pocket health insurance and healthcare costs.

If passed, the SBHRA will ensure small business owners can use Health Reimbursement Arrangements to assist employees with out-of-pocket health insurance and healthcare costs. The proposed legislation introduces a Small Employer Health Reimbursement Arrangement (SE-HRA) that would:

- Allow small employers to use tax-advantaged funding to assist employees with their out-of-pocket individual health insurance and related medical costs; and
- Provide exemptions from current compliance requirements and associated penalties.

The SBHRA will provide relief to small business employers by expanding affordable healthcare options, easing the burden of healthcare related administration, and allowing employers to remain competitive for purposes of recruitment and retention.

Lastly, the SBHRA will also benefit employees by affording them the flexibility and cost savings to personally choose the most appropriate health plan for their unique healthcare needs on the individual market. In the past week, the bill has gained seven new co-sponsors in the House.

### **PMAA SENDS LETTER TO CONGRESS REGARDING FEDERAL INSURANCE MINIMUMS**

PMAA has joined other associations in sending a letter to House and Senate conferees who are working on the highway bill. The letter urges House and Senate conferees to support the House language in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act related to minimum financial responsibility requirements, specifically Sections 5501 and 5503. Fortunately, two amendments that would have stripped Section 5501 of the STRR Act were defeated last week during debate.

PMAA supports the language regarding federal insurance minimums currently in the highway bill and urges the conferees to support it.

### **SPIRIT® PETROLEUM ANNOUNCES FIRST LICENSEE IN THE STATE OF WYOMING**

Spirit® Petroleum proudly announces that it has signed its first licensee in the state of Wyoming. Company president Vera Haskins said today that Bailey Oil Company, located in Riverton, has licensed the Spirit® brand and is in the process of mounting the Spirit® flag on two new Riverton sites. Both are set to open in early December.

Bailey Oil Company supplies retail fuel sites as well as farm and ranch customers throughout the entire state of Wyoming. The company also owns and operates convenience stores, tire and automotive service stations, unattended cardlock sites, an auto parts store and a fuel transportation business. Mike Bailey, the present owner, began working for the business (which was founded in 1960 by his father Ron Bailey) at the age of twelve and took over the reins after his father retired in 2002.

Bailey, who is the incoming chairman of the Petroleum Marketers Association of America (PMAA), is a strong supporter of the Spirit® brand. "I believe Spirit® is a great alternative for the Wyoming market," he asserted. "We're located in the least populous American state; our largest city, Cheyenne, only has about 65,000 people. There are many towns here that don't have the population to support more than one small retail fuel station. The major oil companies are often not willing to brand those smaller sites, and most require expensive improvements that low-volume stations can't afford. For stations like that, Spirit® can be a great fit. And that professional, patriotic image lets fuel customers know it's a trusted brand with everything they need and expect for a good, reliable fueling experience."

"We couldn't be happier that Mike Bailey has decided to bring the Spirit® eagle to the state of Wyoming," said Haskins. "We're positive that the brand will continue to expand and fulfill its mission of providing marketers across the nation with options that help them succeed no matter what the particularities and conditions of the business environment."

Spirit® is a nationally recognized petroleum brand managed by marketers and owned by the non-profit Petroleum Marketers Association of America (PMAA). Spirit® is committed to redefining independence for the American petroleum marketer. Spirit®'s minimal requirements, affordable fees and flexible business solutions give businesses of all sizes the control they need to compete aggressively in today's tough environment. Spirit® offers a sophisticated, patriotic brand image that inspires loyalty and confidence in consumers nationwide. For more information, visit [www.spiritpetroleum.com](http://www.spiritpetroleum.com) or call (215) 345-4119.

### **DON SHEPARD PASSES AWAY – LONG TIME MEMBER OF WPMA**

Donald "Don" W. Shepherd, 67, of Nampa, passed away with his loving wife by his side on Sunday, November 8th, 2015 at University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle Washington after a long and courageous battle with a rare Autoimmune disease.

Don joined his father-in-law, Gus Schade, in business in 1971 at Gem Stop Company. Gem Stop and Northwest Petroleum are still active in the petroleum industry and are owned and operated by his family today.

Don was an active member in the community. He was a member and past president of Kiwanis and served on the Boards for Mountain West Bank, Western Petroleum Marketers Association, and the Idaho Youth Ranch. Don was a president for the Snake River Stampede and spent 30 years on the board.

There will be a Celebration of Life Open House at Hillcrest Country Club, 4610 W Hillcrest Drive in Boise from 3 to 5pm on Sunday, November 15, 2015. A private family service will be held at another time.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that you please contribute to: Western Petroleum Marketers Scholarship Foundation, PO Box 571500 Salt Lake City, UT 84157 where Don was instrumental in setting up this educational foundation.

- See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/idahostatesman/obituary.aspx?n=donald-w-shepherd-don&pid=176471637&fhid=6403#sthash.deDLlwMn.dpuf>

## 2016 WPMAEXPO - LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



Mark your calendars for February 16-18, 2016. Make plans now to attend the 2016 WPMAEXPO. It will be held once again at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 16 – 18, 2016** - WPMA Convention & Expo – Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

**May 19-20, 2016** – Nevada (NPM&CSA) Big Dogs Shootout – Red Rock Resort & Casino – Las Vegas, Nevada

**June 7-9, 2016** – Montana (MPMCSA) Convention – Fairmont Hot Springs Resort – Butte, Montana

**June 20-23, 2016** - Washington (WOMA) Convention - Suncadia Resort - Cle Elum, Washington

**August 3 – 5, 2016** - Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention - Coeur d'Alene Resort - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

**August 22-24, 2016** – New Mexico (NMPMA) Convention – Sandia Resort & Casino – Albuquerque, New Mexico

**September 14-16, 2016** - Utah (UPMRA) Convention - DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton - Park City, Utah

**June 18-22, 2017** – Washington (WOMA) Convention – Suncadia Resort – Cle Elum, Washington

**June 17-21, 2018** – Washington (WOMA) Convention – Suncadia Resort – Cle Elum, Washington

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**Petro Pete: "I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet in 3 hours and 12 minutes."**

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