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CONGRESS TO VOTE ON UNION LEGISLATION AFTER THANKSGIVING

As early as today, the House of Representatives could begin debate on H.R. 3094, the Workplace Democracy and Fairness Act, and vote when Congress returns from Thanksgiving recess. The bill would impose mandatory waiting periods of 14 days before a hearing can occur on a petition by workers to form a union, and at least 35 days before the unionization election at a company can then occur.

The legislation is in response to rules proposed by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in June to dramatically decrease the time employers have to speak with their employees about union representation, potentially shortening the election process to just ten days from the current average of 38 days. A final rule is expected in 2012.

The Coalition for Democracy in the Workplace has an advocacy site, www.myprivateballot.com, where you can urge your Congressman to support passage of H.R. 3094.

SENATORS INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO REPEAL TAX ON INSURANCE PLANS

On Wednesday, Senators John Barrasso (R-WY), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) introduced the Jobs and Premium Protection Act to repeal the costly health insurance tax (HIT) included in the President's health care law.

If the HIT is not repealed, starting in 2014, health insurance companies will be taxed based on their net premiums written in the fully-insured market. Studies have shown that 87 percent of small businesses purchase their insurance in this fully-insured market, and it is the place the self-employed and uninsured go to when they purchase insurance. Furthermore, the HIT will impose \$87 billion in costs on businesses and their employees in the first ten years, diverting revenue that could be used for higher wages, new hires, and capital investment. And over the second ten years, this cost to businesses and their employees will be \$208 billion.

Similar legislation is pending in the House. Earlier this year Representative Charles Boustany (R-LA) introduced H.R. 1370 to repeal the Health Insurance Tax. H.R. 1370 has [80 cosponsors](#).

PMAA is part of a coalition of business groups including the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) and the US Chamber of Commerce committed to repealing the healthcare law.

Please urge your Congressmen and Senators to support the legislation to repeal the tax on health insurance. You may call them at 202-224-3121.

PMAA PROPOSES ALTERNATIVE TO NEW NAT GAS ACT

This week Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) and Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) introduced companion legislation to H.R. 1380, the "Alternative Transportation to Give Americans Solutions Act (NAT GAS ACT) of 2011" to encourage the use of domestic natural gas to fuel vehicles. A glaring difference within the Senate bill is the proposed "pay for" which would fund the new tax credits for natural gas vehicles and infrastructure by charging a temporary user fee on the sale of liquefied natural gas and compressed natural gas sold for use as a motor vehicle fuel. The House version of the T. Boone Pickens plan, H.R. 1380, has the bi-partisan support of 181 cosponsors.

The bill would provide tax credits for the purchase of vehicles: \$7,500 for car (8,500 lbs), \$16,000 for 14,000 lbs, \$40,000 for 26,000 lbs, and \$64,000 for more than 26,000 lbs. It would also provide a producer credit for vehicles fueled by NG or LNG of 10 percent of the basis or \$4,000, with an aggregate credit of \$200 million, and pump installation credits of 50 percent of the cost -- up to \$100,000.

To offset the cost of this bill, a new, temporary tax would be imposed on the sale of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) sold for use as a motor vehicle fuel. The fee would be phased-in starting in 2014 and would run through 2021. The fee schedule is as follows: 2.5 cents for 2014 and 2015; 5 cents for 2016 and 2017; 10 cents for 2018 and 2019; 12.5 cents for 2020 and 2021; ending in 2022. Although the user fee was included to off-set scrutiny from fiscal conservatives, conservative critics - including Kansas Republican Mike Pompeo and the Heritage Foundation - are already rallying against the measure. PMAA estimates the measure will cost taxpayers \$3.7 billion over five years. The credit will expire in five years but the new tax will be for ten years and the biggest tax burden will be imposed after the tax credit program expires.

PMAA appreciates the efforts of the Senate sponsors, but will be reaching out to them to discuss what we consider to be a misguided approach to utilizing natural gas as a transportation fuel. PMAA is advocating that America use its considerable natural gas resources to effectively utilize the \$500 billion liquid fuels infrastructure that already exists. PMAA will be asking Congress to establish goals for expanding research seeking more cost effective processes for converting natural gas to diesel. Clean diesel is widely available today and is a proven success as a safe transportation fuel. Costly conversions to cars, trucks and infrastructure are not needed when natural gas is converted to diesel.

THREE PERCENT WITHHOLDING REPEAL BILL AWAITS PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE

On Wednesday, the House overwhelmingly approved the Senate amended version of H.R. 674 that repeals the withholding tax on contractors doing business with federal, state, and local governments by a vote of 422 - 0. The bill now goes to the President for his signature. This is a big victory for petroleum marketers and other businesses whose voices were heard.

Last week, the Senate amended and passed H.R. 674 to include tax credits for hiring veterans and a Treasury study of tax delinquency among federal contractors by a vote of 95 – 0 with one voting present. Because the Senate amended H.R. 674, the bill had to go back to the House for final approval before going to President Obama for his signature.

The White House has indicated President Obama will sign the legislation into law.

PMAA ECHOS CRITICISM OF OBAMA KEYSTONE DECISION

Business and industry leaders across the U.S. are speaking out in unison criticizing President Obama's decision to delay long awaited approvals of a much needed pipeline to deliver crude oil to U.S. refineries. "The Keystone XL pipeline will dramatically expand Canadian supplies of crude oil to U.S. refiners and subsequently expand gasoline, diesel and heating oil supplies to U.S. consumers" said PMAA President Dan Gilligan. "Increased supply translates into better prices for consumers and it is inexcusable for President Obama to intentionally slow walk necessary approvals."

Business and labor groups agree that Obama's decision puts politics above jobs and the economy. Canadian oil companies have said they will look elsewhere to sell their oil taking jobs with it. Canadian officials have said that China is prepared to buy the crude oil.

Even Washington Post editors who often support Administration environmental policy are questioning the decision. They wrote,

Despite the passion among environmentalists against Keystone XL, Canada's oil will come out of the ground, and someone somewhere will refine it and burn it. Even under optimistic assumptions about greening the world economy, the United States and every other nation will demand immense amounts of oil for decades. Blocking the pipeline helps China lock up more of the world's oil production, cost infrastructure jobs in the United States and offend a reliable ally. More delay after three years of review is insult enough.

PMAA and other industry trade associations including the National Petrochemical and Refiners Association and the American Petroleum Institute oppose the delay and urge the President to stop playing politics with the country's energy and economic security.

YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE!

WPMA welcomes industry-related articles, editorials and comments for publication in *Western Petroleum Marketers News* magazine. All members and associate members of WPMA are eligible to submit items for publication. Articles will be included as space allows, and no self-promoting articles or editorials will be accepted. WPMA reserves the right to edit and make adaption of such contributions to accommodate the magazine's space and style. Please submit articles or content to Jan Roothoff, WPMA Administration/IT Director at janr@wpma.com, or mail to Jan Roothoff, Western *Petroleum Marketers* Association, PO Box 571500, Murray, UT 84157-1500.

WPMA CONVENTION LANYARD SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

Would you like to boost your visibility at the 2012 Western Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Expo? Our EXCLUSIVE sponsorship for the 2012 WPMA Convention lanyards would give you just that, for a cost of \$5,000. Your company will receive the benefits of the convention Sapphire Sponsorship, which includes two banners hung in the trade show area (provided by you) and listing on convention signage and in the Expo Program as a Sapphire Sponsor (a \$2500 benefit). This is a year-round sponsorship, since we will use the lanyards at all of our 2012 state conventions in Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Washington, to increase your visibility.

We know this opportunity will bring a lot of exposure to your company, as everyone at the shows will be wearing YOUR lanyard. If you're interested please call Jamie Wood at (801) 263-9762 or email jamiew@wpma.com.

WPMA CONVENTION SMART PHONE APP ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

WPMA is offering a unique way to give your company more visibility at the WPMA 2012 Convention and Convenience Store Expo, with an exclusive Smart Phone App sponsorship. For a \$3500 sponsorship fee, the smart phone app sponsor will receive a full-screen ad displayed for ten seconds every time the app is accessed. Included with this sponsorship is a scrolling banner ad, one of only ten ads that will scroll at the top of the screen when the WPMA convention app is in use.

The scrolling banner ad is a second advertising opportunity. Each banner ad will display on the smart phone for five seconds in random order while the WPMA convention app is in use. Only ten banners will be sold, so your name will be very visible to all who use the app. The WPMA Convention app received great reviews at the 2011 show, and we look forward to even more users this year.

For more information, to sponsor or to purchase a scrolling banner ad, please contact Jamie Wood at 801-263-9762, or e-mail jamiew@wpma.com.

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WPMA MEMBER SERVICES



2012 WESTERN PETROLEUM MARKETERS CONVENTION & CONVENIENCE STORE EXPO LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



Start planning now to attend the 2012 WPMA Convention and Convenience Store Expo. It will be held at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada. Our keynote speaker will be Ben Stein. Mark your calendars for February 21-23, 2012.

Use the QR code to the left to go to the WPMA National Convention page.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2012

June 5-7, 2012 - MPMCSA Convention – Billings Hotel and Convention Center – Billings, Montana

June 18-21, 2012 – WOMA Convention – Suncadia Lodge – Cle Elum, Washington

August 1-3, 2012 – IPM&CSA Convention – Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

August 27-29, 2012 – NMPMA Convention and Trade Show – Embassy Suites – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Petro Pete: “We live in a society where pizza gets to your house before the police.”

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If you do not wish to receive information via fax or e-mail, please contact WPMA at: (801) 263-9762, Fax: (801) 262-9413, or e-mail: janr@wpma.com. Thanks.