

December 11, 2015

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WP-12-11-15

**WPMA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION EXTENDS HEARTFELT THANKS FOR MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

The WPMA Scholarship Foundation would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the family of Don Shepherd of Nampa, Idaho. At a time when they were mourning Don's passing, they also thought of our children's futures by requesting that in memory of Don, donations be sent to the WPMA Scholarship Foundation. Through this request, over \$1,000 has been donated to the Foundation. We appreciate all the IPM&CSA members and Shepherd family friends who donated to the Foundation in memory of Don.

**TAX EXTENDERS LEGISLATION LIKELY TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

With just three weeks left in 2015, Congress appears poised to finally address the extender items. As many businesses are acutely aware, these extender items include the Section 179 deduction limits, 50 percent bonus depreciation, and the Research and Development Credit. Meanwhile, PMAA continues to support a simple two year extension of the biodiesel blender's tax credit and opposes the Senate Finance Committee passed version which moves the credit to the production level. The House recently introduced its two year version which maintains the biodiesel credit at the blender level.

Over the past month there have been negotiations around making some of the extender items permanent. Provisions which have been discussed for permanence include Section 179 deduction limits, the Research and Development Credit, the deduction for state and local sales taxes, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit and the American Opportunity Tax Credit. However, an agreement on permanence has remained elusive as the Democrats have pushed for indexing for the last three extender items listed above, which the Republicans oppose.

At this time, it appears that the negotiations to make some extender items permanent are still ongoing while back-up options to provide for temporary extensions for most all of the extender items are also in the works through 2016. Presently, Congress is preparing to pass a stop-gap spending bill to fund the government through December 16, 2015, and buy themselves more time at the negotiating table. This will likely mean that consideration of how to address the extender items will also continue through the weekend and into next week.

PMAA and the Small Business Legislative Council have urged Congress to address extender items and provide certainty for small businesses by making Section 179 deduction limits and bonus depreciation permanent.

**PMAA FIGHTING HIGHWAY BILL RIGHT OF WAY LANGUAGE**

Included in the "Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act that was signed into law on December 4, are provisions that could ultimately affect the right-of-way on highways that are partially funded by the Federal government.

Section 1413 of the highway bill directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to identify and establish fueling corridors to support alternative-fueling stations, including electric, hydrogen, propane and natural gas fueling infrastructure at strategic locations along major national highways while Section 1424 authorizes the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration to establish pilot programs in up to five states to "utilize innovative approaches to maintain the right-of-way of Federal-aid highways."

Because PMAA is strongly opposed to rest area commercialization, we are working with NATSO and the Outdoor Advertising Association of America to be involved with the DOT during its' implementation of the provisions. We intend to be "at the table" reminding DOT of the prohibition on commercial services at rest areas.

Some members of Congress have supported legislation that would roll-back the commercialization of rest stop ban in minor ways. During the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup of the highway bill, Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) proposed an amendment that would have allowed EV charging stations and natural gas refueling infrastructure at highway rest areas. She ultimately withdrew the amendment amid strong opposition from petroleum marketers.

**HOUSE PASSES FIRST COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY BILL SINCE 2007**

Last week, the House passed H.R. 8, known as the "North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act" by a vote of 249-174. The legislation would modernize energy infrastructure, strengthen energy security and improve efficiency in the country's energy sector.

Included in the bill is language that would end the 40-year U.S. crude oil export ban. The bill also includes language that would streamline natural gas pipelines but not petroleum pipelines. PMAA opposes this language because PMAA believes natural gas pipeline expansion and petroleum pipeline expansion should be treated fairly. The bill would also consolidate federal permit reviews of cross-border infrastructure projects that stalled the Keystone XL pipeline for years.

Although the House bill passed, there were not enough votes to override a veto threat from President Obama who is expected to veto the legislation because he believes it would damage the efforts to modernize the nation's energy infrastructure and increase energy efficiency. The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources passed their own energy legislation and it is expected that it will be voted on by the full Senate after the New Year. Bottom line – the legislation is unlikely to become law next year.

### **SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PASSES THE SAFE PIPES ACT WITH PMAA PLACARDING SECTION**

On Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation unanimously passed a bipartisan bill known as the "SAFE PIPES Act," marking a significant victory for PMAA and its members. The bill seeks to improve the safety of the nation's oil and natural gas pipelines and overhaul procedures at the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

Included in the bill is language that was initially requested by PMAA. Section 4 of the bill is language that rescinds a recent interpretative guidance on placarding on cargo tank trucks. The language would force PHMSA to revert back to placarding to the lowest flash point for both split loads and alternating straight loads of diesel fuel and gasoline. This is a cost saving provision for marketers because they can ship diesel fuel, gasoline and heating fuel in different compartments of the same cargo tank vehicle under a gasoline placard, as well as ship straight loads of gasoline or diesel under the gasoline placard instead of affixing or switching multiple product placards. The provision can also benefit emergency responders because it reduces the number of placards on the cargo tank which makes identifying the appropriate response in an emergency simple and reliable.

Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee have been reaching out to the DOT since October regarding this issue. Since then, PMAA worked closely with the staff of Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE) to ensure the language would be added in the "SAFE PIPES Act" and that it would receive support from other committee members.

Final action on this bill is likely in early 2016. On the regulatory side, PMAA joined on as a signatory to a petition for rulemaking at PHMSA that would allow placarding to the lowest flashpoint for both split loads and straight loads. PMAA is also working with PHMSA officials to withdraw the new interpretation that prevents placarding to the lowest flash point for straight loads.

### **PMAA'S WASHINGTON CONFERENCE 2016 HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW OPEN**

PMAA's annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill will be held in our Nation's Capital of Washington, DC from May 18-20. The meeting will begin with an Opening Session / Issues Briefing in the early afternoon of May 18. Our welcome reception, including our popular PAC silent auction fundraiser, concludes the day! On the morning of May 19, 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. The PMAA Board of Directors will meet on May 20.

Click [here](http://www.pmaa.org/meetings/upcomingmeetings/) (<http://www.pmaa.org/meetings/upcomingmeetings/>) to find all available details for Washington Conference and Day on the Hill. 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!

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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
- August 2-4, 2017** - Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention – Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, Idaho
- June 17-21, 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

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**Petro Pete: "I'm letting my kids be naughty this year to save \$\$."**

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