

Idaho Member Meeting in Las Vegas

– February 21, 2017

We had a great turnout, as usual, for the IPM&CSA member meeting in Las Vegas. This is always a perfect time to connect and discuss the latest action at the Idaho Statehouse. Timing is good to review the issues we need to watch, and identify those that require action from our industry. We get a few minutes to connect as Idaho members and compare notes in industry issues, legislation and upcoming events. Members also dip in to their wallets for the PMAA PAC. Idaho continues to exceed our annual goal for PAC fundraising at the federal level, and for our state.

Thanks to all for taking a few minutes out of your busy ***WPMAEXPO*** schedule to join the IPM&CSA member meeting in Las Vegas! We will do it again next year — same time, same place — so please plan to ***join us again in 2018!***

The IPM&CSA Legislative Agenda: *Industry Issues to Watch*

IPM&CSA is on the ground and engaged at the Idaho Statehouse during the legislative session. This year, as in most recent years, the issue of how to fund roads and bridges is on the agenda, but in 2017, the focus is on emergency funding for flood damage during our unusually severe winter.

Here are some of the bills and proposals IPM&CSA is working on this legislative session:

Fuel Tax and Transportation Funding

- Fuel tax proposals
- Utah model – fuel tax increase indexed to a price benchmark
- 5 cent fuel tax increase
- Surplus Eliminator proposals to divert surplus revenues to Transportation funding
- Emergency Fuel tax for flood damage, \$52 million from JFAC / general funds
- General Fund – Sales tax shift/increase to fund transportation
- Tax Commission Motor Fuel Rules (housekeeping)

Status: As of this report, no fuel tax or transportation funding proposals have successfully moved through the legislative process. Look for final action as the legislature wraps up. If and when a transportation funding package passes, it will be in the final hours of the session.

Dyed Diesel Enforcement

- Two proposals for enforcement (Sen Brackett) S1044 & S1072
- Proposal to eliminate dyed diesel (Jerry Deckard) S1052

Status: S1072 Failed in the Senate 8-26-1. Senator Brackett has pushed for more enforcement of dyed diesel for several years. He may step back now that his legislation was soundly defeated in 2017.

Retail / Tobacco / Below Cost Selling

- Tobacco purchase/sell age increased from 18 to 21 (Sen Martin and health coalition) S1106
- Below Cost Selling (Sen Burgoyne and Rep. Monks – with fuel exempted)

Status: S1106 died in the Senate State Affairs committee after a 2 ½ hour hearing. IPM&CSA retailer members did a terrific job opposing this bill with letters and in testimony before the committee.

Environmental / Regulatory / DEQ / UST / PSTF

- DEQ rules implementing fee and new EPA rules / includes flexibility for sump testing (approved by House and Senate)
- S1028 DEQ legislation to create dedicated fund for UST fee (clean-up bill from last year)
- PSTF board appointment – Rep. Megan Blanksma (appointed by Speaker Bedke)
- PSTF / UST Funding questions/confusion (Senator Brackett / Mike McCurdy – DEQ)
- DEQ UST Program – Mike McCurdy replaced Orville Green as Waste Management Division Chief

Status: We've seen many changes with UST programs in recent years: New DEQ tank fees supported by the industry to keep regulation at the state rather than the federal EPA; New management at DEQ; and new board members at PSTF. IPM&CSA must be always vigilant in defense of reasonable regulation and financial assurance at the state level.

Propane / Natural Gas

- Natural Gas Vehicles Association – pushing for state tax credit / WDC lobby for federal tax credit
- Propane Container – Co-Op proposal

Status: Propane, LNG and CNG as transportation fuel has grown in recent years, and with it, issues of taxation at the state level. IPM&CSA passed legislation to level the playing field for fuel tax on LNG and CNG in 2015 and we continue to defend against backsliding by alternative energy proponents. Expect the new Natural Gas Vehicle Association to push for tax credits at the state and national levels in 2018.

Safety

- Propane Container – Jack Ingram proposal
- Front License Plate Removal – H110 – to eliminate front plate (Killed on House floor 28-42)

Status: A proposal to eliminate front license plates was killed on the House floor after a lengthy debate, which focused on law enforcement and safety, including drive-offs. Look for a proposal in 2018 related to how propane containers are safely managed. A similar proposal was killed in the House Business committee in 2016, and reappeared and discussed in 2017 but not introduced as a bill.

Legislative Wrap-Up

Much of the action takes place as the legislature comes to a close. The going home issues in 2017 may well involve funding to address emergency flood damage, including fuel tax and related proposals. Look for a thorough review of the 2017 legislative once the session wraps up in late March or early April.

UPCOMING EVENTS: *Reminders*

IPM&CSA BOARD MEETING - April 13, 2017 — IPM&CSA board members will meet April 13 in Boise to review the legislative session and plan for the upcoming convention in Sun Valley.

PMAA DAY ON THE HILL – Washington D.C. May 16-19, 2017 — **Marriott at Metro Center** – IPM&CSA will make our annual trip to Washington D.C. to visit members of the Idaho Congressional Delegation for PMAA Board Meeting and Day on the Hill.

IPM&CSA CONVENTION and TRADE SHOW – August 2-4, 2017 — **Sun Valley Resort** – Register online at www.wpma.com/idaho. Call now and reserve your room at the Sun Valley Resort. Our room block always fills up quickly for our annual event, so be sure to get your spot reserved early.