

**Legislative Activities
& Transportation Funding**

The Utah State Legislature did not waste any time when, two days after the mid-term election, the Republicans elected their leadership for the 2015-2016 legislative sessions.

The Senate Republicans stayed with the same team as 2013-2014 with **Wayne Niederhauser** as Senate President; **Ralph Okerlund**, Majority Leader; **Stuart Adams**, Majority Whip; and **Peter Knudson**, Assistant Majority Whip.

The House Republicans elected **Greg Hughes** as Speaker of the House; **Jim Dunnigan**, Majority Leader; **Francis Gibson**, Majority Whip; and **Brad Wilson**, Assistant Majority Whip.

UPMRA contributed over \$12,500 to 74 State legislative campaigns and successfully backed 72 newly elected legislators. Also in November, all State legislators were invited, and 14 joined UPMRA members at our annual legislative lunches, for a discussion of 2015 legislative issues.

Nationally, the PMAA Small Business PAC supported 104 Federal legislative candidates, and of the 101 races so far decided, the candidates we supported were victorious in 93. Mia Love, Utah's 4th District Congresswoman was one of the 93 PMAA victories!

Transportation Funding - States and localities account for 75% of all transportation funding, but the federal gas tax remains the primary source of highway and mass-transit funding; yet Congress has not increased the gas tax since 1993 – it remains at 18.4 cents per gallon. Inflation has since cut its value by 40%, and rising fuel efficiency has also reduced its value. The recent drop in oil prices creates an opportunity to revisit this issue, and UPMRA would not oppose an increase in the federal gas tax imposed evenly across all states.

Additionally, UPMRA and the Utah Business Coalition (if the Legislature deems it necessary) support a moderate State motor fuel tax increase, which has been 24.5 cents per gallon since 1997. We do oppose local option gas taxes and indexing, preferring a one-time increase or an increase with a short window, like 2-3 years before sunseting.

One danger of higher state gasoline taxes is their effect on C-store sales near state borders, and Utah's rural residents have to travel more miles annually than urban drivers, and don't have the option of reducing their consumption to compensate for higher prices.

**Successful Convention
at Park City Marriott**

In mid-September, 118 UPMRA members and associates mixed business with pleasure at the 2014 UPMRA Convention & Trade Show at the Park City Marriott, in the heart of Utah's Rocky Mountains.

After a splendid-weather day of golf at Wasatch Mountain in Midway, we re-convened at the hotel for the expanded Trade Show, now with pipe and drape booths, followed by dinner and keynote Bill Child, who spoke about himself as an "accidental entrepreneur" as he transformed RC Willey into a company Warren Buffet wanted to buy!

On Friday, our general business session provided updates on Supply and Refinery Upgrades in Utah as well as what's happening within Utah's DEQ. Attorney General Sean Reyes capped off the meeting, explaining his approach to serving as Utah's top cop.

Utah C-Stores - By the Numbers

In 2013, data shows Utah with 1,203 convenience stores, each employing approximately 15 local residents, who complete about 1,130 transactions per day!

In Utah, total C-store sales exceed \$5.569 billion dollars, of which 76% is motor fuel sales on over 1.225 billion gallons.

Independent retailers return 52% of revenue to the communities where they reside, while national chains return just 14%.



John Hill
Executive Director,
Utah Petroleum
Marketers & Retailers
Association

2013 NACS State Industry Report	Average Per Store	Utah
Total Stores:	1	1,203
Total Employees:	15	18,045
Transactions per Day:	1,130	1,359,390
Total Sales:	\$4,628,920	\$5,568,590,760
Merchandise Sales:	\$1,022,991	\$1,230,658,173
Food Service Sales:	\$ 209,690	\$ 252,257,070
Total Motor Fuel Sales:	\$3,533,579	\$4,250,895,537
Total Motor Fuel Gallons:	1,018,322	1,225,041,366
Total Credit Card Expense:	\$ 74,542	\$ 89,674,026
Total Utilities Expense:	\$ 39,528	\$ 47,552,184
Total Labor Expense:	\$244,068	\$ 293,173,064
Pre-Tax Profit:	\$ 47,254	\$ 42,434,092