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2012 WPMA CONVENTION AND CONVENIENCE STORE EXPO A SUCCESS

February 21-23, WPMA hosted their annual convention and trade show exhibition at The Mirage in Las Vegas. The convention was very well attended and we had the pleasure of associating with many WPMA members and exhibitors. From our informative workshops to our outstanding keynote speaker, Ben Stein and our exceptional trade show, it was fun, educational, and very rewarding for all who attended. Our management session speakers were very enlightening. The WPMA annual convention is especially rewarding for our organization, as it is a time we can all come together, renew friendships and gain information that will help make our business more successful. We want to thank each of you for your participation in our convention.

WPMA would like to extend a special thank you to each of those who donated or purchased items from our silent auction and/or played golf in the WPMA Scholarship Open. All of the money raised at these events goes directly to our Scholarship Foundation, to fund the scholarships that we award each year. Once again, thanks to each of you for making our convention such a great success. Without you we couldn't do it.

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Or by using your smart phone or device and scanning the following QR code:



IMMEDIATE CALLS NEEDED - OPPOSE REST STOP COMMERCIALIZATION And Oppose Raid on LUST Fund

The House and Senate have resumed consideration of the Highway bill and member grassroots contacts are needed. Please call House and Senate members about these two provisions:

1. **Oppose commercial rest area amendment** - Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) filed an amendment (#1742) to the Senate transportation reauthorization bill to allow for commercialization of rest areas (both interstate and non-interstate). Additionally, Rep. Steven LaTourette (R-OH) and Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) also have been pushing for their rest area commercialization amendment (#217). PMAA vigorously opposes both of these ill-advised amendments. You can contact your Representative and Senators by going to [PMAA's Legislative Action Center](#). Click [here](#) to view PMAA's arguments against the LaTourette-Kucinich amendment #217 and Senator Portman's amendment. These amendments represent one of the biggest threats that retailers have ever faced under a highway bill, and it is urgent that you act now. Even if you have spoken with your Senators and House member in the past about this issue, please make sure he or she understands this imminent threat and is prepared to oppose Amendment 1742 to the transportation bill, S. 1813, and amendment #217, to the House bill.

2. **Oppose raiding of LUST fund and change in LUST Tax** - Senators have included a provision in the Highway bill package that has bi-partisan support and support from groups like the Chamber of Commerce. The provision would not only rob the LUST Trust Fund of three billion dollars and move it to the Highway Trust Fund, it would also change the allocation of the .001 of a penny LUST tax. The change will permanently dedicate one third of the existing \$.001 LUST tax to the Highway Trust Fund and two thirds to the LUST Trust Fund. PMAA opposes this change and believes this is bad public policy. If the money is not being used for the LUST program, the LUST tax should be reduced or eliminated. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has indicated that he will seek cloture on the Senate highway bill, but he is unlikely to reach that since seven Republicans will be required for cloture passage.

PMAA urges members to contact Senators by dialing the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 to oppose both the raid on the LUST fund and the change in the LUST tax.

DISAGREEMENTS ABOUT TIER 3 GASOLINE ESCALATE

Refiners are vigorously disputing EPA's claim that new gasoline specifications will only raise gasoline prices one-cent per gallon. Refiners claim the standard will add 12 to 25 cents per gallon. Whatever calculations the proponents or opponents use, PMAA will be opposing the new specifications because they will certainly limit gasoline supply in many regions of the U.S.

The forthcoming Tier 3 proposal is expected to create a uniform nationwide sulfur content standard for gasoline of 10-ppm and a nationwide summertime RVP standard (except California) as low as 7 psi. Under a harmonized national vehicle emission standard, Tier 3 would coordinate current California sulfur standards with the EPA and U.S. DOT's recently proposed light vehicle emission standards to reduce carbon pollution and improve fuel economy for model years 2017-2025.

The EPA estimates the proposed standard would increase the cost of gasoline by one-cent per gallon while reducing oil consumption by four billion barrels and eliminate two billion metric tons of carbon emissions over the lifetime of the vehicles. The EPA predicts consumers will save \$3,000 to \$4,000 on average per vehicle based on the one-cent per gallon cost. According to a Tier 3 impact study commissioned by refiners, the proposed rule would require up to \$17 billion in refinery upgrades and require the permanent closure of between four and seven U.S. refineries and increase carbon emissions from 2.9 to 7.4 million tons per year due to higher energy input required to refine the new blend.

The proposed rule is expected to be released in March.

FEDERAL COURT BLOCKS FDA GRAPHIC TOBACCO WARNINGS

Yesterday, March 1, 2012, a Federal District Court issued a final decision that held the FDA's new graphic images and text warnings for cigarette packaging and cigarette advertisements violate the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In his order, Judge Richard Leon, ruling for the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, rules that the FDA is permanently enjoined from enforcing the proposed graphic images and text warnings for a period of 15 months following the issuance of new warnings by the FDA that are valid and permissible under the United States Constitution and federal law.

That is, Judge Leon has ordered the FDA to dispose of its proposed graphic images and text warnings and issue a whole new set of health warnings that meet constitutional standards. It is expected that the FDA will appeal, therefore, many procedural hurdles remain.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR PMAA'S WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AND DAY ON THE HILL SCHEDULED FOR MAY

PMAA's 2012 annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill will be held in Washington, DC from May 16-18. Our industry continues to have dozens of important legislative and regulatory issues to discuss with members of Congress and the Day on the Hill continues to be the primary focus of this conference.

The meeting will begin with an issues briefing and committee meetings on the afternoon of May 16th followed by a welcome reception including our PAC silent auction fundraiser. On the morning of May 17th, there will be another issues briefing if you did not arrive in time for the first one. Marketers and association executives will then head to Capitol Hill for visits with their Congressional delegations. Please be sure to make these appointments at your earliest convenience. There will be a hospitality suite and luncheon on the Hill. On the evening of May 18th, we will honor our new PMAA Chair, Stanley Roberts. Our conference will conclude after the PMAA Board of Directors meet on May 18th following regional meetings.

If you plan on attending PMAA's Annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill, now is the time to make your room reservation as we are nearly sold out. We have two hundred members who have reserved rooms in our block on our peak night! Please note that we will have an overflow hotel option once we are completely sold out at The Washington Court.

2013 WESTERN PETROLEUM MARKETERS CONVENTION & CONVENIENCE STORE EXPO LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Start planning now to attend the 2013 WPMA Convention and Convenience Store Expo. It will be held at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mark your calendars for February 19-21, 2013.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2012

May 9-10, 2012– Nevada - NPM&CSA Convention – Las Vegas, Nevada

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

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

June 19, 2012 – Idaho-IPM&CSA 1:30 pm Annual DEQ/UST Compliance and Informational Meeting with DEQ staff at DEQ

June 21, 2012 – Utah - UPMRA Summer Golf Classic – Old Mill Golf Course – Draper, UT

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

August 15-16, 2012 – Utah - UPMRA Convention – Zermatt Resort (tentative), Midway, UT

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

Petro Pete: "When in doubt, mumble."

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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.

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