



**Scholarship Applications Closing Soon**

Time is running out! Scholarship Applications Close **March 20th**

The WPMA Scholarship Foundation is awarding four \$10,000 scholarships to students of Marketer Members Companies and one \$6,000 scholarship to a student from an Associate Member Company.

Encourage Your Student to Apply!

**CLICK HERE TO APPLY**

The following information provided by:  
**EMA-Energy Marketers of America**



**EMA Regulatory Alert: EMA Urges FMCSA to Restore 30-Day Emergency HOS Relief and Adopt a Preemptive Framework for Fuel Supply Resilience**

EMA Regulatory Counsel Contacts: [Jeff Leiter](#) and [Jorge Roman](#)

This week, the Energy Marketers of America (EMA) submitted formal comments to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) strongly supporting the agency's proposed rulemaking to reinstate the 30-day automatic relief period for hours-of-service (HOS) relief during regional emergencies. EMA, representing family-owned energy marketers nationwide, emphasized that reversing the 2023 rule is essential to preventing fuel supply disruptions and reducing administrative burdens during energy crises.

In addition, EMA highlighted three critical areas for reform within the emergency response framework to support small business energy marketers and maintain the flow of motor fuels and heating oil.

***Restoring the 30-Day Relief Period to Align with Recovery Realities***

EMA emphasized that the current 14-day limit on automatic emergency relief is insufficient for the operational realities of emergency and disaster response. The shortened timeframe often leads to market uncertainty, supply delays, and the need for frequent, redundant extension requests.

"Restoring the 30-day period is a practical step that aligns with the realities of extended emergency recoveries," said EMA Vice President Sherri Stone. "Our marketers have seen firsthand how the shortened 14-day limit leads to uncertainty, delays, and unnecessary extensions, as evidenced by the ongoing Regional Emergency Declaration No. 2025-012 for winter storms and the Marcus Hook refinery outage," Stone added.

***Establishing a Preemptive Policy for Predictable Emergency Events***

To further enhance fuel resiliency, EMA is calling for a formal preemptive policy that allows FMCSA to issue regional declarations up to **five days** in advance of predictable weather events, such as hurricanes or severe winter storms. By leveraging forecasts from other federal agencies, the FMCSA can enable marketers to preposition supplies and coordinate logistics before roads or other infrastructure are compromised.

***Advancing Federal Leadership to Eliminate State Regulatory Patchworks***

EMA further urged proactive federal leadership in issuing declarations to eliminate the patchwork of often conflicting state relief and underlying conditions. When states issue disparate waivers, it creates significant compliance confusion for drivers and enforcement officials involved in interstate fuel distribution. A uniform federal approach would ensure a seamless flow of energy resources across state lines, supporting public safety and emergency services during regional disruptions.

"Fuel resiliency is vital not just during disasters but in the critical preparation phase," EMA Disaster Response Director Sam Bell stated. "By adopting preemptive and coordinated federal declarations, FMCSA can help ensure uninterrupted energy supplies, supporting public safety, emergency services, and recovery efforts across affected regions," Bell added.

EMA works closely with FMCSA, the Department of Energy CESER, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on disaster preparedness and response. The organization urged the agency to prioritize these recommendations to address the increasing frequency and severity of emergencies impacting the national fuel supply chain.

[Click here](#) to read the letter.

### **Inside the Beltway Update**

In response to a deepening global energy crisis triggered by the war in Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the 32 member nations of the International Energy Agency (IEA) have agreed to a historic release of 400 million barrels of oil. This unprecedented collective action, which is more than double the amount released during the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, aims to stabilize markets after crude prices surged past \$100 a barrel following U.S.-Israeli strikes and Iranian retaliatory attacks on energy infrastructure.

While the G7 nations, led by French President Emmanuel Macron, provided the primary momentum for the measure, concerns remain among some European officials regarding the long-term challenge of refilling reserves before winter if regional production and trade routes remain disrupted. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum stated that President Trump will make the final decision on U.S. participation.

The Trump administration has announced the release of 172 million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) as part of a historic 400-million-barrel global effort by the International Energy Agency to stabilize soaring oil prices. This intervention follows Iranian attacks on oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, which have driven crude prices to four-year highs amid the U.S. war with Iran. The drawdowns are scheduled to begin next week and last approximately 120 days, despite concerns regarding the SPR's current capacity (which is less than 59 percent full) and potential physical constraints on its maximum flow rate. While Energy Secretary Chris Wright criticized the previous administration for leaving the reserve "drained and damaged," he emphasized that the current action is a commitment to energy security and noted plans to replace the drawdown with 200 million barrels within the next year.

President Trump's "energy dominance" team, led by Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Energy Secretary Chris Wright, is currently facing significant criticism for its response to surging global oil prices following a U.S. attack on Iran. Despite claims that this team would usher in a "golden age" of American prosperity, critics and energy experts argue the administration underestimated the conflict's impact on energy markets, which saw gasoline prices rise 60 cents a gallon in less than two weeks. High-profile communication errors, such as a deleted social media post erroneously claiming U.S. Navy escorts for tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, have contributed to historic market volatility and skepticism regarding the administration's strategy. While the Energy Department is releasing 172 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as part of a global effort to stabilize costs, Democratic lawmakers and industry analysts have characterized the team's leadership as a "PR shop" lacking a clear plan to secure vital shipping lanes. Despite reports of internal criticism regarding Burgum's public appearances during the crisis, the White House maintains "full confidence" in the "Tiger Team," citing record-high domestic production and a long-term vision for global energy stability.

### **EMA Regulatory Alert: Trump Administration to Issue Temporary Jones Act Waiver**

Yesterday, the Trump Administration announced that it is preparing to suspend the Jones Act for 30 days, a move with significant implications for petroleum marketers. The Jones Act — formally the "Merchant Marine Act of 1920" — requires that cargo transported between U.S. ports travel on vessels that are American-built, American-owned, American-flagged, and crewed primarily by U.S. citizens. President Trump's planned 30-day exemption would apply broadly to vessels moving crude oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, heating oil, liquefied natural gas, and fertilizer among U.S. ports, enabling foreign tankers and barges to move those goods.

The announced waiver is a direct response to fuel price spikes triggered by the U.S.-Israel military strikes on Iran and disruption to the Strait of Hormuz shipping lanes. For petroleum marketers, the practical effect could be meaningful — greater tanker availability on domestic waterborne shipping routes should ease supply bottlenecks that have pushed rack prices higher, particularly in East Coast markets that depend heavily on Gulf Coast product.

While announced, the Jones Act waiver itself has not yet been finalized.

"Marketers should monitor developments closely, and if the waiver is finalized and issued, short-term price relief at the rack is possible," said EMA President Rob Underwood. "However, how quickly the price changes may be seen will depend largely on regional supply conditions and how aggressively suppliers move to take advantage of expanded vessel availability."

### **71 Lawmakers Urge the Administration to Counter Illegal Chinese Vapes and E-Cigarettes**

Recently, 71 Republican lawmakers told Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer in a letter that the Trump administration should counter a flood of illegal Chinese vapes and e-cigarettes that are taking over the American market without any approval or oversight from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Lawmakers explained that vapes from China pose threats for multiple reasons, from health to national security, and the need for action is urgent. Furthermore, cartels have secured a dominant share of the illegal market in Mexico and are continuing to expand their operations in the United States. To review the letter, go [here](#).

**EMA Washington Conference and Day on the Hill – May 13-15, 2026: Please Make Your Hotel Reservation and Register Now**

EMA's annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill will be held in Washington, DC from May 13-15 at [The Mayflower Hotel](#). Our industry continues to have many important legislative and regulatory issues to discuss and the Day on the Hill remains the primary focus of this conference for you to meet with your members of Congress and network with other marketers from across the country!

Hotel reservations will close April 30 at 6:00 pm Eastern or when the room block is sold out. Tuesday night (4 available), Wednesday night (26 available), and Thursday night (Sold out). **If we sell out, please refer to Additional Hotel Information #3.**

**Registrations must be received by April 30 to be included in our hotel guarantee.**

**[Click here to Register and Book your Hotel Room for EMA's DC Conference and Day on the Hill](#)**

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**Weekend Reads**

**[Trump DOJ sues California over EV mandate forcing mileage rules on automakers](#)**

**[US E15 panel may punt on refiner biofuel waivers](#)**

**[Iran war reignites debate over U.S. oil exports](#)**

**[Aramco CEO warns of 'catastrophic' consequences if oil crisis continues | Yahoo!Finance](#)**

**[Crude prices are higher after IEA announces historic oil reserve release | CNBC](#)**

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**Federated Insurance Risk Management Academy Complimentary Webinar**

***How Can Telematics Help Your Drivers Improve?***

***Thursday, March 19, 2026, 2:00 P.M. Eastern Time***

Join our upcoming webinar to explore how telematics technology can support your fleet's safety and efficiency goals. This session offers insights into the tools available to monitor and understand driver behavior, such as Lytx in-cab video and Federated DriveSAFE<sup>SM</sup> telematics, to help manage your fleet more effectively.

Discover how modern telematics systems operate and the data they can provide to business owners and fleet managers. These tools can help your drivers improve operational awareness and reinforce safer habits.



**WHAT YOU WILL LEARN**

- An overview of in-cab video and telematics solutions for risk management.
- How machine vision and AI can detect and flag risky driving behaviors.
- Using GPS tracking and video access to monitor fleet operations.
- The role of coaching workflows and performance analytics in promoting safer driving habits.

**[Register today](#)** to learn more about the technology shaping modern fleet management.

For additional information or to discuss this in further detail, please contact your **[Federated](#)** regional representative or EMA's National Account Executive **[Jack West](#)** at **[262.719.7750](#)** for any additional information or risk management questions. **Federated is a Partner in EMA's Board of Directors Council.**

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The **WPMA NEWS** currently serves EIGHT independent petroleum and convenience store associations.

**WPMA NEWS MAGAZINE CURRENT ISSUE**



**EMA JOURNAL** - The Official Publication of the Energy Marketers of America

**EMA JOURNAL CURRENT ISSUE**

Click [HERE](#) for a previous *WPMA News* issue

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### WPMAEXPO Speaker Presentation Slides Now Available

The presentation slides from this year's WPMAEXPO educational sessions are now available. If you attended a session and would like to revisit the material or were unable to join us, you can download the slides below. We appreciate our speakers for sharing their time, insight, and expertise with our members.

Todd Shaw

Rob Underwood

Robert Bryce

Nick Lynch

Dean Rhoades

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## REGISTRATION OPEN

Click on the event below to register



ECAN Big [Dogs Registration](#)



IPM&CSA [Golf Registration](#)

### PLEASE NOTE UPCOMING DATES FOR EVENTS

- April 23-24, 2026 ECAN (Nevada) Big Dogs, Red Rock Resort, Las Vegas, NV
  - April 28, 2026 - IPM&CSA (Idaho) Ridgecrest PAC Golf Tournament, Nampa, ID
  - June 2-3, 2026 MPMCSA (Montana) Convention, Fairmont Resort, Fairmont, MT
  - June 15-17, 2026 WOMA (Washington) Convention, Suncadia Resort, Cle Elum, WA
  - July 12-14, 2026 OFA (Oregon) Conference, Sunriver Resort, Sunriver, OR
  - Aug 5-7, 2026 IPM&CSA (Idaho) Convention, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, ID
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**DON'T MISS THIS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!**

2026 Applications are due **MARCH 20**

[CLICK HERE](#) for 2026 WPMA SCHOLARSHIP Information

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**Petro Pete:** The bed store is having a spring sale. Unfortunately, the rest of the beds are still full price.

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