

March 14, 2014

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WP-03-14-14

SENATE CLEARS BILL TO EXTEND EMERGENCY WAIVERS FOR HEATING FUELS

Last night, the Senate cleared legislation introduced by House Transportation Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) (H.R. 4076) which would extend the Department of Transportation's temporary suspension of certain federal safety regulations, including Hours of Service (HOS), for propane and heating oil transportation through May 31, 2014. Currently, DOT temporary emergency declarations only last for 30 days which is not enough time to bring certainty to propane and heating oil suppliers. The Home Heating Emergency Assistance Through Transportation (HHEATT) Act of 2014, (H.R. 4076) would also give the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with Governors of impacted states, the authority to terminate the extension of the emergency declaration if they deem the relief is no longer needed. President Obama is expected to sign H.R. 4076 into law.

While Senator John Thune (R-SD) played a key role to ensure H.R. 4076 made it through the Senate, he also introduced similar legislation (S. 2086) which will be considered by the Senate Commerce Committee during the month of April. The legislation would provide state governors with greater autonomy in extending these waivers up to an additional 60 days (for a total of 90 days). It would also provide an early warning system in which the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) would notify governors when propane or heating oil supplies fall below the most recent five year average for more than three consecutive weeks. Because the bill changes current law, it faces a steeper hill to climb in the Senate.

INDIVIDUAL INSURANCE MANDATE WILL NOT BE WAIVED

While the Obama Administration has issued multiple waivers delaying portions of Obamacare mandates, the individual insurance purchase mandate will not be waived. Earlier this week in a Congressional hearing, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius made it clear that the individual mandate will not be waived. She also commented there would be no postponement of this month's deadline for enrolling in coverage through new private insurance marketplaces or Medicaid. Because the individual mandate is controversial and unpopular, this announcement is disappointing to some Democrats in close races.

NEW SENATE ENERGY CHAIR CONSIDERS KEYSTONE XL

This week, Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), the new Chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee, said that she may hold a hearing on the Keystone XL pipeline as she finalizes the committee's agenda for the remainder of the year. Sen. Landrieu assumed the Senate ENR gavel after Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) left to become the U.S. Ambassador to China and former Senate ENR Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR) replaced Baucus as chair. Senator Landrieu plans to actively pursue legislation to expedite crude oil and liquefied natural gas exports and the Keystone XL pipeline.

Senator Landrieu's new Senate ENR title will give her a platform to promote the immediate approval of the Keystone XL pipeline which will help her home state as well as her reelection chances in November.

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

PMAA's 2014 annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill will be held in Washington, DC from May 21-23. 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 commence with an Opening Session / Issues Briefing followed by Committee Meetings on the afternoon of May 21. The last event of the first day is our welcome reception including our PAC silent auction fundraiser! On the morning of May 22, there will be a buffet breakfast and a supplemental issues briefing if you did not arrive in time to attend the original one. Marketers and association executives will then head to Capitol Hill for visits with their members of Congress. 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 22, we will honor our new PMAA Chair, Sam Bell. Our conference will conclude after the PMAA Board of Directors meet on May 23 following a buffet breakfast and region meetings.

You can find the registration forms and instructions along with all related details for Washington Conference and Day on the Hill [here](http://www.pmaa.org/pmaameetings/upcomingmeetings.asp) (http://www.pmaa.org/pmaameetings/upcomingmeetings.asp). 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 have had an overwhelming response in attendance. *We have over two hundred members who have reserved rooms in our block on our peak night!*

Please make your plans now to attend. See you in DC in the spring!

2015 WPMA CONVENTION & CONVENIENCE STORE EXPO LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Plan now to attend the 2015 WPMA Convention and Convenience Store Expo. It will be held at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mark your calendars for February 17-19, 2015.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2014

May 8-9, 2014 – NPM&CSA Big Dog event – Red Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, Nevada

June 3-5, 2014 – MPMCSA Convention – Hilton Garden Inn – Missoula, Montana

June 16-19, 2014 - WOMA Convention – Suncadia Lodge – Cle Elum, Washington

June 19, 2014 – UPMRA Summer Golf Classic – Davis Park Golf Course – Kaysville, Utah

August 6-8, 2014 – IPM&CSA Convention – Coeur d’Alene Resort – Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

August 19-20, 2014 – NMPMA Convention – Marriott Pyramid North – Albuquerque, New Mexico

September 10-12, 2014 – UPMRA Convention – Park City Marriott – Park City, Utah

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Petro Pete: “Have you ever noticed? Anybody going slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac.”

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Great opportunity for someone to join the team at Kellerstrass Enterprises in our Salt Lake City office. Looking for someone to assist the office manager in taking care of the daily operational needs. This person would need to be able to input orders into our accounting system. Answer phones with a pleasant attitude and take care of customers as they walk into the facility. Understanding of the billing process would be helpful. Knowledge of the oil and gas industry a plus.

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FAX: 801-392-9589 Attention Ryan Murdock/Delinda Huffaker

Email: rmurdock@kellerstrassoil.com

FOR SALE:

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FOR SALE:

Non operating truck-stop on .82 acre with commercial kitchen and current rental income. Tanks inspected and pumps certified for 2013. Phase 1 complete on property located in Culbertson, MT.

For More information please call Tom Nelson 406-256-7470 or email t.nelson@murphybusiness.com