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**PLEASE REACH OUT TO LAWMAKERS TO CAP THE ETHANOL MANDATE**

More lawmakers are cosponsoring legislation known as "The Food and Fuel Consumer Protection Act," (H.R. 5180) introduced by Reps. Flores (R-TX), Welch (D-VT), Goodlatte (R-VA) and Costa (D-CA) which would cap the ethanol mandate at 9.7 percent of projected gasoline demand. PMAA fully supports this legislation.

Click [here](http://www.congressweb.com/pmaa/11/share?setMobile=1) (<http://www.congressweb.com/pmaa/11/share?setMobile=1>) to urge your House lawmakers to cosponsor the legislation.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES BILL COMBATING DOL OVERTIME RULE**

On Thursday, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies passed the FY 2017 Labor and HHS funding bill.

The legislation contains PMAA-supported language that would prohibit the Department of Labor (DOL) from implementing the new manager overtime rule. PMAA is deeply opposed to the rule that more than doubles the minimum salary level needed to qualify as exempt from overtime requirements.

The bill also prohibits enforcement of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) joint-employer standard that is burdensome to businesses. PMAA applauds the efforts of Congress to prevent enforcement of these costly regulations by the Obama Administration.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS A REGULATORY BUDGET**

Yesterday, the House Budget Committee examined the concept of a "regulatory budget." In a hearing labeled "An Introduction to Regulatory Budgeting", committee members reviewed the idea that got an airing in Speaker Ryan's recent roll out of the GOP agenda. Congress has ceded greater and greater authority to a regulatory state that has grown in power to become, in many ways, an unchartered fourth branch of government.

A regulatory budget would limit the total cost of an agency's regulations with a budget, forcing the agency to eliminate old rules before implementing new ones. Recently, the Competitive Enterprise Institute published a report on the topic and Clyde Wayne Crews of the Institute was one of the witnesses at the hearing.

House conservatives are pressing the logic of such regulatory restraint which would cap the cost of rules while House liberals believe it would derail rules that protect the environment and consumers. Speaker Ryan's Task Force on Reducing Regulatory Burdens recommends establishing a regulatory budget as it would identify and signify priorities, and clarify and balance the impact of regulations on the lives and livelihoods of Americans. At nearly \$2 trillion, the annual U.S. regulatory burden is roughly seven times larger than the annual corporate federal income tax burden which is equivalent to half of what the federal government spent last year in its entirety.

**PMAA OPPOSES REPEAL OF DURBIN AMENDMENT**

This week, PMAA signed on to a multi-trade association letter opposing any attempt to weaken or repeal the Durbin Amendment that was included in the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, recently released a draft bill to provide an alternative to the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act known as the Financial CHOICE Act. The bill would ultimately repeal the Durbin amendment which would be extremely harmful for retailers. Meanwhile, Rep. Neugebauer (R-TX) also introduced standalone legislation to repeal the Durbin amendment.

Retailers have benefitted from the Durbin amendment because it ultimately lowered debit card interchange fees. PMAA supported the Durbin amendment's passage in 2010 and is fighting to ensure it is not repealed.

**HOUSE AG COMMITTEE HEARING EXAMINES SNAP FRAUD AND ERROR**

This week, the House Agriculture Committee held another hearing on USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), this time focusing on error rates and enforcement issues within the program. During the hearing, lawmakers pressed Obama administration officials to eliminate common instances of abuse and errors in the \$70 billion program. Chairman Conaway (R-TX) stated that although the error rate for SNAP is relatively low (3.2%), "it translates to more than \$2 billion per year in payments that are issued incorrectly."

However, some witnesses spoke about progress including Kay Brown with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) focused on program progress and noted that the error rate has reached all-time lows.

The agency has focused on fraudulent sales by SNAP retailers (2,700 in 2015), but has not focused on addressing fraud at the recipient level, with caseworkers and states “lacking necessary resources”. Ohio state auditor Dave Yost said a six-month investigation in his state “identified 36 instances where dead people received benefits more than a year after their death.”

Interestingly, according to the USDA, of SNAP’s 3.2 percent error rate, 62 percent is traced to administrators. Rep. Grisham (D-NM) noted that her home state made headlines this week on the discovery that administrators were falsifying information on food stamp applications for years. PMAA will continue to fight for fairness for retailers who help millions of Americans who participate in SNAP.

### CONGRESS REVIEWS OBAMA’S REGULATORY ACTIVITY

On Wednesday, the House Energy Committee’s Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a hearing entitled “A Review of EPA’s Regulatory Activity during the Obama Administration: Energy and Industrial Sectors.” The hearing examined some of the major regulations issued by the EPA since 2009 affecting the energy and industrial sectors, and additional rules and initiatives the agency plans to pursue prior to the end of the Administration. Since 2009, EPA has published an astonishing 3,900 rules, totaling 33,000 pages.

Since 1990, the EPA has been publishing several hundred new rules each year. The pace of regulatory activity has not abated during the current Administration, particularly with regard to Clean Air Act (CAA) regulations and a number of greenhouse gas (GHG) related rules that are not expressly authorized in the statute. Committee members were particularly interested in the cumulative effect of multiple regulations on industries.

Witnesses before the subcommittee were Janet McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, EPA; Travis Kavulla, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; David Porter, Railroad Commission of Texas; Lynn Helms, North Dakota Industrial Commission, Department of Mineral Resources; Charles D. McConnell, Energy and Environment Initiative, Rice University and Robert Weissman, Public Citizen.

Members on the panel expressed concerns that the EPA is exceeding its statutory authority and becoming the nation’s energy regulator. Subcommittee Chairman Whitfield (R-KY) reported that “Ultimately, it will be up to Congress to ensure EPA stays in its statutory lane for environmental standard setting. It will be up to Congress to take a holistic look at the statutes that govern our energy and electricity markets, and energy policy – to ensure our laws enable a growing, productive economy.”

PMAA continues to aggressively push back against onerous regulations and to fight for positive policies that strengthen petroleum marketers.

## 2017 WPMAEXPO - LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



Mark your calendars for **February 21-23, 2017**. Make plans now to attend the **2017 WPMAEXPO**. It will be held once again at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 3, 2016** – Idaho (IPM&CSA) Circling Raven GC PAC Golf Outing – Coeur d’Alene, Idaho
- August 3-5, 2016** – Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention – Coeur d’Alene Resort – Coeur d’Alene, Idaho
- August 22-24, 2016** – New Mexico (NMPMA) Convention – Sandia Resort & Casino – Albuquerque, New Mexico
- August 26, 2016** – Hawaii (HPMA) Golf Tournament – Honolulu Country Club – Honolulu, Hawaii
- September 8, 2016** – Idaho (IPM&CSA) Teton Valley PAC Golf Outing – Huntsman Springs GC – Driggs, Idaho
- September 14-16, 2016** – Utah (UPMRA) Convention - DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton – Park City, Utah
- December 8, 2016** – Washington (WOMA) Christmas Party – SAFECO Field – Seattle, Washington
- February 21-23, 2017** – WPMA Convention & Expo – Mirage Hotel– Las Vegas, Nevada
- March 1, 2017** – Utah (UPMRA) Day on Capitol Hill – Salt Lake City, Utah
- May, 2017**– Nevada (NPM&CSA) Big Dogs Shootout – TBD, Nevada
- June 6-8, 2017** – Montana (MPMCSA) Convention – Northern Hotel – Billings, Montana
- June 19-22, 2017** – Washington (WOMA) Convention – Suncadia Resort – Cle Elum, Washington
- June 22, 2017** – Utah (UPMRA) Summer Classic PAC Golf Outing – TBD, Utah
- August 2-4, 2017** – Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention – Sun Valley Resort – Sun Valley, Idaho
- September 13-15, 2017** – Utah (UPMRA) Convention – Zermatt Resort – Midway, Utah
- June 18-21, 2018** – Washington (WOMA) Convention – Suncadia Resort – Cle Elum, Washington
- August 8-10, 2018** – Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention – Coeur d’Alene Resort – Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

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**Petro Pete: “I changed my password to “INCORRECT”. That way when I forget it, it always reminds me, “Your password is INCORRECT”.”**

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