



Jesse Watters currently serves as the host of Jesse Watters Primetime (weekdays, 7PM/ET) and co-host of The Five (weekdays, 5-6PM/ET) on FOX News and Author of the #1 New York Times Best Selling Book, "How I Saved The World."

He joined Fox News in 2002 as a production assistant. On Jesse Watters Primetime, Jesse takes on compelling guests and top newsmakers with his original style and fun personality. In March 2017, he aired an exclusive interview with President Donald Trump aboard Air Force One.

On The Five, Jesse is part of a roundtable ensemble of FNC personalities who discuss, debate and even debunk the hot news stories, controversies and issues of the day. In 2003, Jesse made his on-camera debut as a correspondent for The O'Reilly Factor.

While working with the program, he showcased his popular man-on-the-street interviews, traveling to different locations while quizzing individuals about politics, pop culture, and current events. Jesse graduated from Trinity College with a Bachelor of Arts in history.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS TO MAUI

In the wake of the recent devastation that has struck Maui, we come together as an association to extend our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to our colleagues, families, and friends who have been affected by this tragedy. Our hearts ache for the challenges they now face, and we are ready to offer our support in any way we can.



"LET'S GO WASHINGTON" PETITION

Advocacy organization Let's Go Washington is gathering signatures on a petition to ask the Washington Legislature to repeal the state's new carbon pricing system.

Conservatives are saying the new program is causing Washington to have **the highest gasoline prices in the nation**. Oil companies with refineries in Washington must buy carbon allowances to keep emitting carbon dioxide. They appear to be passing those costs onto customers at the gas pump.

The new carbon pricing program went into effect on Jan. 1, 2023. Washington posted the highest gas prices in the nation in June and July. "It's such a scam. It's a hidden tax," said Brian Heywood, head of **Let's Go Washington**, at a Republican candidates festival in Redmond on July 29.

Heywood says Gov. Jay Inslee and Democratic lawmakers downplayed the potential impact on Washington's carbon auctions on gas prices. Inslee and his administration predicted in 2021, when the Legislature passed the program, that gasoline prices would rise only a few pennies. "He lied to begin with," Heywood said.

The first two carbon auctions have raised more than \$800 million, some for fiscal 2024 and some for fiscal 2025. The Legislature allocated the money for 2024 to 188 projects, including solar panel farms, climate planning, constructing electric vehicle infrastructure and other alternative energy projects. Heywood contends the program was designed to raise gas prices to force people to switch from gas-powered to electric vehicles.

Inslee spokesman Mike Faulk noted that the petition on Let's Go Washington's website calls for banning cap-and-trade whether the increased costs are paid by fuel suppliers or people at the pump. "Sounds like it has more to do with climate denialism than addressing consumers' concerns about gas prices," Faulk said.

Let's Go Washington has to collect 324,516 valid signatures by Dec. 29 to submit any of the six petitions it is developing to the Legislature. If the Legislature decides not to act on the petitions with enough signatures in its 2024 session, they would go on the election ballot for the November 2024 election. Democrats have significant majorities in both the Washington House and Senate, meaning any successful petition would likely receive a chilly reception.

The five other petitions being pursued by Let's Go Washington would:

- Call for repealing a new capital gains tax.
- Forbid any state or local income tax.
- Make participation in the state's new long-term care insurance program optional.
- Remove some restrictions on police pursuits.
- Allow students to opt out of surveys, assignments and sex education and enable more parent access to their children's records and instructional materials.

Article taken from [The Columbian](#).

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



EPA EXTENDS EMERGENCY RVP WAIVER ALLOWING SUMMERTIME SALE OF E15 NATIONWIDE

On August 8, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the [fifth waiver extension](#) this year allowing the sale of E15 blends nationwide during the summer driving season. This most current waiver is an extension of the previous RVP waiver issued by the EPA on July 8, 2023. The EPA can only issue RVP waivers for 20 days at a time under the Clean Air Act. The current RVP waiver extension begins on August 10, 2023, and lasts through August 29, 2023. The EPA plans to issue a string of RVP waiver extensions similar to last year that allow E15 to be used nationwide between June 1 and September 15. The RVP waiver temporarily exempts E15 from RVP volatility requirements that effectively block it from being sold during the summer driving season. To justify the emergency waiver, the EPA cites the same conditions that provided the foundation for a series of summerlong temporary RVP waivers last year. The EPA says that the fuel volatility waivers for E15 is in the public interest to address fuel supply shortages caused by the war in Ukraine. The EPA estimates that 2,700 retail gasoline stations nationwide currently sell E15.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT WARNS TAXPAYERS OF NEW SCAMS INVOLVING IRS REVENUE AGENT IMPERSONATIONS

The U.S. Treasury Department is warning about a recent surge in scammers impersonating the IRS by phone, email, in person, by mail or by express delivery service. Often, these scammers are seeking personal information such as social security numbers and banking data in order to file false returns or solicit bogus payment. The following are examples of the most schemes reported by taxpayers:

Contact By Letter

One of the [newest and more devious schemes](#) involves mail coming in a cardboard express mail envelope from either a delivery service or the United States Postal Service (USPS). The fraudulent letter includes the IRS logo along with a statement that the notice is "in relation to your unclaimed refund." The contact information does not belong to the IRS, but the mailing looks official. This scheme seeks sensitive personal information from taxpayers, including driver's license photos that can be used by identity thieves to steal the taxpayer's refund and other sensitive financial information.

In Person Contact

Scam artists may also appear at a taxpayer's home or business posing as IRS agents and creating confusion not just for the taxpayer but also for local law enforcement agencies. As this scam has grown, taxpayer confusion about in person visits by IRS revenue officers has increased. To help combat these scams, the IRS recently announced that it is [ending most unannounced visits to taxpayers by agency revenue officers](#). In place of the unannounced visits, revenue officers will instead contact taxpayers through an appointment letter, known as a 725-B Letter, and schedule a follow-up meeting. This will help taxpayers feel more prepared when it is time to meet. Taxpayers who receive a request from IRS in the mail or by phone can always contact IRS customer service to authenticate it.

Contact Via Email and Text Messages

Taxpayers should be on the lookout for a summer [surge of tax scams](#) as identity thieves continue sending email and text messages promising tax refunds or offers to help 'fix' tax problems. They may pose as the IRS or tax professionals, urging the taxpayer to click fraudulent links so the identity thieves can steal valuable personal information. Taxpayers should remember: the IRS never initiates contact regarding a bill or tax refund by email, text or social media. Taxpayers can also report scams to the [Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration](#) or the [Internet Crime Complaint Center](#).

INSIDE THE BELTWAY UPDATE

The Congressional Recess is in full swing for the first time in several years, and members and staff are taking full advantage, spending time in districts and traveling domestically and internationally. Still, that doesn't mean Washington is totally quiet. The White House and the rest of the Administration are continuing their work and many states are seeking action on a myriad of federal issues, including the states of Iowa and Nebraska, who are suing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to urge them to make permanent the waiver from earlier this year that temporarily allowed E15 sales nationwide throughout the summer. Separately, the White House is working to refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), which had been at a 40-year low as the current and previous Administration had both released oil in order to ease gas prices at different points—especially last year, when the Biden Administration was trying to fight effects of record inflation.

One Congressional item worth noting is that prior to departing for recess, both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees marked up their FY 2024 funding bills. The Senate appropriated closely to the budget caps negotiated by Speaker McCarthy and President Biden, while House appropriators provided significantly less funding, treating the caps as ceilings, not floors. With wide funding gaps between the House and Senate bills across the board (and some partisan policy riders in the House bill), the appropriations bills are not likely to be enacted when the fiscal year ends September 30. In that case, the most optimistic plan is that Congress would pass a short-term Continuing Resolution necessary to avoid any lapse in funding and allow additional time for Congress to complete its work. The pessimistic plan is that we may see a (hopefully brief) government shutdown in October. Still, despite differences in funding levels across the appropriations legislation, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding levels were increased in both the House and Senate. The House provides \$4.011 billion for FY 2024 and the Senate provides \$4.075 billion, an \$11 million and \$75 million increase over the FY 2023 (\$4 billion) funding levels.

COURT VACATES FDA DEEMING REGULATIONS FOR PREMIUM CIGARS

This week, Judge Amit Mehta of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a ruling that vacates the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's deeming regulations which pertain to premium cigars. When a court "vacates" a regulation, the regulation is cancelled or declared null and void. This decision was issued in a seven-year long lawsuit filed by the Cigar Association of America, the Premium Cigar Association, and the Cigar Rights of America against the FDA challenging the inclusion of premium cigars in the deeming regulations.

This ruling means that those cigars which meet the definition of a "premium cigar" would not be regulated by the FDA. In this lawsuit, the federal district court relied on a definition of "premium cigar" which requires that a cigar meet all of the following eight criteria:

1. Is wrapped in whole tobacco leaf;
2. Contains a 100 percent leaf tobacco binder;
3. Contains at least 50 percent (of the filler by weight) long filler tobacco (i.e., whole tobacco leaves that run the length of the cigar);
4. Is handmade or hand rolled (i.e., no machinery was used apart from simple tools, such as scissors to cut the tobacco prior to rolling);
5. Has no filter, nontobacco tip, or nontobacco mouthpiece;
6. Does not have a characterizing flavor other than tobacco;
7. Contains only tobacco, water, and vegetable gum with no other ingredients or additives; and
8. Weighs more than 6 pounds per 1,000 units.

In July of 2022, Judge Mehta issued a ruling that the FDA's decision to include premium cigars in the deeming regulations to exert regulatory authority over these products was arbitrary and capricious because the agency failed to consider data submitted to it concerning the use of premium cigars and the health effects of such use. Based on that decision, Judge Mehta needed to decide whether to vacate those portions of the deeming regulation that regulated premium cigars or remand, or send the issue back to the FDA to correct the deficiencies in the provisions of the deeming regulations related to premium cigars. The decision issued by Judge Mehta yesterday vacated those portions of the rule related to premium cigars in their entirety and did not provide the FDA an opportunity to correct the deeming regulations. The FDA has the right to appeal this latest court decision to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A copy of the court decision issued yesterday [is here](#).

REMINDER: USDA ANNOUNCES \$450 MILLION IN NEW FUNDING FOR HIGHER BIOFUEL BLENDING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Recently, USDA announced that it will begin accepting new applications for \$450 million in grants through [Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program \(HBIIP\)](#). These grants support the infrastructure needed to lower out-of-pocket costs for energy marketers to install and upgrade biofuel-related infrastructure such as pumps, dispensers and storage tanks. The HBIIP funds are available for both retail and wholesale fueling/storage facilities. There will be five application windows to distribute the \$450 million in HBIIP grants between July 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024. A sixth application window will be opened if funding has not been exhausted. [CLICK HERE TO READ THE ENTIRE ALERT.](#)

URGE LAWMAKERS TO SUPPORT THE CREDIT CARD COMPETITION ACT

Congress left town for August recess last Friday and will return to Capitol Hill after Labor Day. Therefore, EMA encourages you to continue your outreach over August recess when members will be at home to let them know that you want them to cosponsor/support this important legislation. The banks are using every single tool possible to prevent this important legislation from getting to the floor and threatening that credit card rewards will disappear. In a new research paper released last week, global payments consulting firm CMSPI estimated that credit card rewards would be reduced by less than one-tenth of 1 percent "at most" if the legislation becomes law.

[URGE LAWMAKERS TO COSPONSOR S. 1838/H.R. 3881](#)

EMA'S FALL MEETING AT THE NACS SHOW 2023 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

EMA will hold its Fall Meeting in conjunction with the NACS Show on October 2-3 at Courtland Grand Hotel, Trademark Collection by Wyndham (formerly Sheraton). The EMA meeting will begin with a New Attendee Orientation mid-afternoon on October 2 followed by the Federal Legislative Update. NACS/EMA Reception Salute to State Association Executives (all EMA members are welcome) will follow at Georgia World Congress Center Hunter Club Lounge. On the morning of October 3, there will be a Buffet Breakfast followed by Region and Committee Meetings. The EMA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled after the Distinguished Service Award Luncheon honoring Arkansas Marketer Steve Turner exclusively sponsored by EMA Board of Directors Council Partner Federated Insurance.

[CLICK HERE FOR EMA FALL MEETING AT THE NACS SHOW INFORMATION!](#)

***Please note that the NACS Show registration is separate from EMA's Fall Meeting registration.*

EMA MEMBERS CODE FOR NACS SHOW 2023 REGISTRATION

Please register for the 2023 NACS Show in Atlanta, Georgia from October 3 – 6 and use the EMA NACS Show Registration Code below.

EMA Registration Code

EMANS2023

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE NACS SHOW!](#)

Questions registering? Contact NACS Show registration customer service at nacs@maritz.com or 469-513-9489, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST, for assistance.

TIRED OF DELAYED IRS TAX REFUNDS?

Recently, the Energy Marketers of America (EMA) announced an exclusive member service agreement with ThinkTrade, an IRS authorized e-filing service provider and a BBB accredited company with A+ rating, enabling safe and secured filing for taxpayers. ThinkTrade will grant EMA member companies a 15 percent discount off ThinkTrade's e-filing services through a dedicated landing page to prepare, file and pay federal excise tax returns on IRS Forms 720, 8849 and 2290.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THINKTRADE AND EMA'S LANDING PAGE TO FILE TAXES](#)

WEEKEND READS

[Electric Vehicles: Starting to Swerve](#)

[The EPA's ambitious plan to cut auto emissions to slow climate change runs into skepticism | ABC News](#)

['Above-normal' hurricane season now forecast due to higher sea temperatures](#)

[Most cars still cost more to charge than to fill up with gas | Business Insider](#)

[Joint Office Announces Electric Vehicle Working Group Members | Joint Office of Energy and Transportation](#)

[Barrasso Op-Ed: The GOP's All-of-The-Above Strategy Is Better for the Environment... \(senate.gov\)](#)

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

Check out the EMA Journal anytime online by clicking [here](#).

EMA Spring Journal is the current issue [online](#). EMA Journal's Fall issue can be retained as a reference guide year-round by our members and you can take [the digital edition](#) with you wherever you go. Scroll to select the articles that catch your eye, then share the content with the icons at the top of your screen. Archived covers are handy on the left side of your browser or use the convenient search feature to find a specific topic. If you prefer to read with pages that flip, select "page view" from the menu bar for a classic page-turner. The Journal recently adjusted to three issues per year.

COMPLIMENTARY WEBINAR

Discrimination and Harassment Prevention

**Tuesday, August 15, 2023
11 a.m. CST**

Webinar highlights:

Would your organization benefit from some simple tools to help mitigate the risk of discrimination and harassment claims?

Join this webinar to learn more about key steps employers can take today to evaluate their commitment to the prevention and successful resolution of discrimination and harassment claims.

These are steps you can take at no additional cost and can put into practice right away.



**REGISTER
NOW!**

This webinar is provided by Zywave, a company wholly independent from Federated Insurance*, with the understanding that neither Federated* nor its employees provide legal or other expert advice.
Federated Mutual Insurance Company
and its subsidiaries.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!



CLICK HERE FOR THE CURRENT ISSUE OF THE WPMA NEWS MAGAZINE

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

In this publication you will find WPMAEXPO highlights, along with reports on legislative issues, policies, state highlights and upcoming events. You'll get the latest on national issues and regulations, Scholarship updates, featured Associate articles, Associate listings and more.

Interested in a previous *WPMA News* issue? Click [HERE](#).

PLEASE NOTE UPCOMING DATES FOR WPMA EVENTS

August 21-23, 2023 - NMPMA New Mexico Convention - Sandia Resort - Albuquerque, NM
October 25-27, 2023 - UPMRA Utah Convention - Hilton Garden Inn - St. George, UT

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS



NEW MEXICO CONVENTION

Click [here](#) to to see Schedule of Events for the NMPCSA Convention held August 21-23 at the Sandia Resort in Albuquerque, NM.

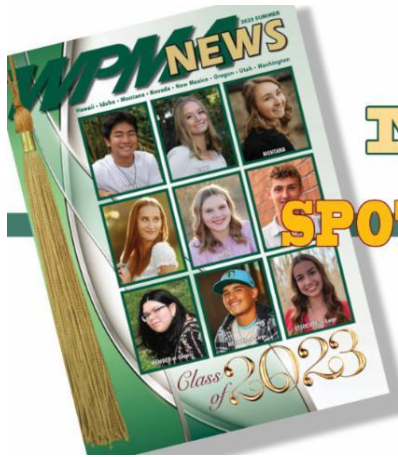
Choose your attendee type to register: [Attendee](#) or [Exhibitor](#)



UTAH CONVENTION

Click [here](#) to to see Schedule of Events for the UPMRA Convention held October 25-27 at the Hilton Garden Inn, St. George, UT.

Choose your attendee type to register: [Attendee](#) or [Exhibitor](#)



SUMMER MAGAZINE

SPOTLIGHTS ALL 2023

SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS!



WPMA
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Petro Pete: Adam & Eve were the first ones to ignore the Apple terms and conditions.

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