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PRESIDENT TRUMP TO SIGN BILL TO AVOID GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

On Wednesday, the House passed a \$853 billion spending bill to avoid a partial government shutdown at midnight on Sunday, which pushes the next funding fight until after the midterm elections. The bill provides funding through December 7 for the Departments of Homeland Security, State, Commerce and Justice and science agencies. The bill also includes full funding for a year for the Departments of Defense, Labor, Education and Health and Human Services. Lastly, in response to Hurricane Florence, lawmakers also added more than \$7 billion in disaster aid.

Republican leaders have delayed acting on Trump's demand for at least \$5 billion to construct a wall and fencing along the southern border with Mexico as a way to gain bipartisan support. Senate Democrats have only offered to provide \$1.6 billion in funding for the wall. Earlier this month, President Trump threatened to shut down the government if he didn't receive sufficient funding for the border wall, however, he said he likely wouldn't do so before the November elections. The President is expected to sign the minibuss appropriations bill today.

HOUSE TO VOTE ON TAX REFORM 2.0 PACKAGE

Today, the House is set to vote on a tax package called "Tax Reform 2.0" that would make individual tax cuts and the \$10,000 cap on state and local tax (SALT) deductions permanent, while also expanding retirement savings options for small businesses and allowing start-ups to deduct more costs. Furthermore, the package would eliminate the alternative minimum tax (AMT). Finally, the plan would include a new Universal Savings Account for families and a provision that would allow families to tap into their own retirement accounts without penalty after having or adopting a child.

There have been fierce debates on the bill between Republicans who want to pass the bill to campaign on tax cuts and Republicans from districts in liberal states who say the SALT write-off limit is unpopular with their voters. If the legislation passes the House floor today and moves to the Senate, it is unlikely to pass that Chamber because supporters of the bill will need at least nine Senate Democrats to support the measure.

API AND AFPM URGE TRUMP NOT TO EXTEND RVP WAIVER TO E15

On Tuesday, the presidents of the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM) sent a [letter](#) to President Trump opposing the possibility of EPA extending the 1 lb Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver to E15. The association presidents referred to reports that EPA is preparing to extend the waiver with minor changes in the trading of RINs.

The API and AFPM letter notes that, "Meaningful reforms to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) are integral in any discussion about E15. Without corresponding reductions of mandated biofuel volumes, more E15 could be forced into the market, increasing the risk of consumer misfuelling. In fact, nearly three out of every four cars on the road today are not designed for E15, and several automakers have said that E15 could void car warranties. E15 is also incompatible in classic cars, motorcycles, boats, lawnmowers, and power equipment engines."

Each year, the EPA regulates RVP for gasoline and gasoline-ethanol blended from June 1 until September 15. During these months, the EPA restricts the retail sale of fuels with ethanol above 10 percent.

PMAA continues to be concerned that small business petroleum marketers will be placed in a precarious situation if E15 starts to take hold because of the potential economic impacts of adding E15 including the costs associated with existing UST system incompatibility.

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEES HOLD JOINT HEARING ON SNAP FRAUD

On Wednesday, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs and its Subcommittee on Healthcare, Benefits and Administrative Rules held a hearing to discuss how to combat Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) fraud from both a federal and state perspective, and to explore how Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) can more effectively assist states in the program's administration. Witnesses included: Ann Coffey (Assistant Inspector General Investigations, USDA Inspector General); Tarren Bragdon (President and CEO, The Foundation for Government Accountability); Thomas Roth (Director, Fraud Investigations Unit, Maine Department of Health Human Services); and Dr. Craig Gundersen (Soybean Industry Endowed Professor in Agricultural Strategy).

At the hearing, Republicans and Democrats had varying views on the SNAP program as a whole, as well as on SNAP fraud. Many Republicans stated that, although they had no issue with providing assistance to those who need it, they were concerned with the number of people who use the program and spoke highly of provisions in the House farm bill that would require able-bodied adults without children to meet strict work requirements. Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL) stated, "Make no

mistake - our fellow Americans deserve help in times of need. But fraud takes this assistance straight out of the hands of those who need it." Additionally, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), a Freedom Caucus member, stated that they "just want to have a work requirement in place that doesn't get waived" and wants able-bodied SNAP recipients to work to receive SNAP benefits that are funded by American tax dollars.

Conversely, Democrats were quick to attack Republicans for holding the hearing at all. Rep. Bonnie Watson Colman (D-NJ) said, "My Republican colleagues and this Republican administration doesn't give a good damn about the neediest in our country." Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Ranking Member of the Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee, stated that everyone should be looking at wasteful defense spending at the Pentagon, saying that amount would be "almost twice the entire annual budget of SNAP."

Hearing witness Ann Coffey said that over the past five years, the Office of Inspector General had conducted 857 SNAP investigations that have resulted in 2,302 indictments and 2,335 convictions, and stated that "during that time, our monetary results have totaled \$463 million." Hearing witness Tarren Bragden instead focused on overpayments by the USDA that he said totaled more than \$3.5 billion, saying that number of overpayments is unacceptable. Finally, hearing witness Tom Roth spoke about the types of fraud cases he sees in his state, stating that his "point in providing [everyone] with a very brief overview of the type of fraud cases we work is to illustrate the fact that fraud exists and when you look for it, you find it." Roth added that it is impossible to calculate the approximate level of fraud within the SNAP program.

SAFE VEHICLES PROPOSED RULE HEARINGS

On August 24, 2018, the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the EPA's proposed Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks was published in the Federal Register. The proposed rule would freeze CAFE standards and corresponding greenhouse gas standards at 2020 levels and revoke the rights of individual states to adopt more stringent emissions standards.

Public hearings were held on September 24 in Fresno, California; September 25 in Dearborn, Michigan; and September 26 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The public hearing in Fresno emphasized how polarizing this issue is and set the stage for what could be a long battle over the proposed rule. On one side are those who oppose any change to the existing CAFE standard rules including the State of California and other states that have adopted similar emission standards. Most testimony was in opposition to the proposal. Mary Nichols, chair of the California Air Resources Board, said that "there is nothing safe about this proposal" and that she'd refuse to bargain as long as the administration maintained its claim that only the federal government can regulate tailpipe emissions. The state of California is adamant on retaining the state's zero-emission vehicle mandate and its ability to regulate tailpipe emissions.

The automakers, on the other hand, have taken a middle of the road approach. Automakers are interested in rules that would enable manufacturers to plan and build a single fleet of vehicles for the U.S. Steven Douglas, senior director of energy and environment for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, urged California and the federal government to work together to "find a common-sense solution that sets continued increases in vehicle efficiency standards while also meeting the needs of America's drivers." Advocates of the proposal support the U.S. Department of Transportation conclusions that the changes in the standards would make it easier for consumers to afford new cars with better safety features. They do not see a compromise as likely and expect that if this were to go to court, the administration would prevail.

WPMA ANNOUNCES STEPHEN BANNON AS 2019 KEYNOTE



WPMA is excited to announce Stephen K. Bannon as our 2019 WPMAEXPO Keynote. Mr. Bannon served as CEO of Donald Trump's presidential campaign, and later served as Chief Strategist and Senior Counselor to the President. He is the founder of Citizens of the American Republic, a 501(c)4 that advocates for populism and economic nationalism and is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and the former Executive Chairman of Breitbart News. Mr. Bannon has a master's degree in National Security Studies from Georgetown University and an MBA from Harvard Business School. He served in the armed forces aboard the USS Paul F. Foster in the western Pacific, Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf, and later served at the Pentagon as a Special Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations.

Join us at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 20, to hear Stephen Bannon speak on current events and issues. You won't want to miss this event!

PLAN TO ATTEND THE 2019 WPMAEXPO

WPMAEXPO

Mark your calendars for February 19-21, 2019. Make plans now to attend the 2019 WPMAEXPO. It will be held once again at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

October 25, 2018 – Hawaii (HPMA) Golf Tournament – Hapuna Beach GC, Kamuela, HI

February 19-21, 2019 – WPMA Convention & Expo – Mirage Hotel– Las Vegas, NV

May 2-3, 2019 – Nevada (NPM&CSA) – Big Dogs – Las Vegas, NV

June 4-6, 2019 – Montana (MPMCSA) Convention – Location - TBA

June 17-20, 2019 – Washington (WOMA) Convention – Suncadia Resort, Cle Elum, WA

August 5-7, 2019 – Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention – Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, ID

August 19-21, 2019 – New Mexico (NMPMA) Convention – Sandia Resort & Casino, Albuquerque, NM

September 11-13, 2019 – Utah (UPMRA) – Convention – Zermatt Resort, Midway, UT

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Petro Pete: “Don’t you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.”

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