WPMA weekly update
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October 24, 2025 Visit us online at wpma.com WP-10-24-25

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

Business and Industry Groups, Including EMA, Urge President Trump to Intensify Antitrust Enforcement

On October 6th, EMA and dozens of business groups representing multiple sectors sent a letter to President Trump urging him to double down on the antitrust crackdown he championed during his 2024 campaign and specifically to "resist pressures" to go soft on alleged monopolists like Google and Ticketmaster. The letter argues that strong action is needed to curb excessive market power and preserve fair competition across multiple sectors. When asked why EMA joined the letter, EMA President Rob Underwood said:

The reason why the Energy Marketers of America (EMA) signed the letter is because of our commitment to the Main Street Competition Coalition (MSCC) to promote competition by strengthening enforcement of the Robinson-Patman Act ("RPA"). The RPA is the only federal price discrimination law to ensure a level playing field for the benefit of both businesses and consumers. Increased antitrust enforcement will help with FTC's authority under the RPA to bring enforcement actions against anticompetitive price discrimination. This price discrimination favors, among others, super stores and big box retailers, who gain a competitive advantage by purchasing merchandise at lower prices than their smaller to medium-sized competitors. In other words, convenience stores are at a competitive disadvantage when compared to other channels, be it big box, grocery or dollar stores, which often offer less expensive food and beverage products at retail than convenience retailers can obtain from the wholesale level. Some convenience store retailers have tried to purchase items at big box retailers since it can be cheaper than the wholesale price. Unfortunately, convenience store retailers receive retaliatory action from food and beverage suppliers and producers.

Unfortunately, the FTC has not brought a case under the RPA in more than 20 years. The FTC should investigate unlawful price discrimination at every level of trade that impacts the energy marketing industry. This should include the important issue of whether "channels of trade" distinctions are being used to evade laws against price discrimination. We also back FTC's increased because it will strengthen FTC's RPA enforcement efforts.

EMA's interest in signing the letter is not motivated by an intent to promote or oppose mergers or acquisitions at the refiner or other levels of trade. EMA is focused more narrowly on enforcement of the RPA through the FTC.

Read the full letter here

Read the **NY Post article covering the letter here**

Watch the **Fox Business clip on the letter here**

Inside the Beltway Update

It's Day 24 of the federal government shutdown. House Republicans have not returned to Washington since mid-September, and the Senate has now left town for the week. While there were early signs that Congressional leaders might move toward a resolution, little tangible progress has been made.

Although many Americans have yet to feel the direct impact, that could soon change and ramp up pressure on Congress to act. As November 1 approaches, millions of Americans could see immediate impacts through the lapse of numerous federal programs and operations.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which millions of households rely on to stay warm during the winter, could soon run out of funds. State and local administrators are already warning of an imminent lapse. Recognizing the potential impact on small business energy marketers, EMA joined a coalition of state, regional, and national organizations urging Congressional action. Early next week, EMA will issue a **CALL TO ACTION** encouraging Members of Congress to ensure LIHEAP appropriations continue during the shutdown.

Another threat to public health and safety – states are now warning that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will not go out in November if the shutdown continues. Further, the Disaster Relief Fund, the main source of federal disaster recovery funding, is running critically low. Its balance has fallen below $11 billion, a level that previously raised alarm among officials. This could force FEMA to prioritize only immediate disaster responses and threatens to curb crucial government assistance during hurricane season.

IRS operations are also being severely disrupted, leading to delays in tax refunds for those not filing flawless electronic returns. Live customer service is limited, appeals appointments are being canceled, and paper correspondence is going unanswered—even as all filing and payment deadlines remain in effect.

The uncertainty is not limited to federal government programs. California faces a looming fuel supply crisis as two of its nine gasoline refineries - Phillips 66 Los Angeles and Valero Benicia - plan to close or idle by mid-2026, cutting nearly 18 percent of the state's refining capacity. Because California operates as a "fuel island" with its own emissions-specific gasoline blend and limited import infrastructure, the closures could drive up prices and increase dependence on imported fuel from 10-20 percent today to 25-35 percent statewide. In response, Governor Newsom has softened the state's stance toward refiners, pausing enforcement of the refinery profit cap and directing the Energy Commission to maintain market stability. The state is also exploring measures such as reversing existing pipelines and requiring refiners to hold additional inventory to mitigate future price volatility.

Weekend Reads
Analysts Talk Oil and Gas Bust Cycle | Rigzone

McKinsey Sees Fossil Fuels Dominating for Decades | yahoo!finance

Phillips 66, Kinder Morgan eye new pipeline to bolster US West Coast fuel supply | Reuters

Phillips 66 Plans First California-Bound Fuel Pipeline | Transport Topics

The outdated renewable fuel standard is draining America's refining capacity | Washington Examiner

Utah GOP lawmakers propose plan to cut gas prices by ending refinery tax break | KUTV

Why Tesla can't win as profits slump despite record revenue | MSN

Federated Insurance Risk Management Academy Complimentary Webinar
Fire Prevention: Thursday, October 16, 2025, 1:00 PM Central Time
This presentation will explore common fire hazards in businesses across the nation. It will go over how different industries and operations can be at risk and highlight how to identify various fire hazards to help prevent them before they start.

What You Will Learn:

Current Statistics and Trends
Common and Special Hazards
Spontaneous Combustion
Thermal Runaway
Safe Practices

Who Should Attend:

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HR Professionals

Please click link to REGISTER**: RMA Complimentary Webinar Invitation**

*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.*

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

WPMA NEWS MAGAZINE CURRENT ISSUE

Click **HERE** for a previous *WPMA News* issue

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

EMA JOURNAL CURRENT ISSUE

REGISTRATION OPEN

Click on the desired event below to register

WPMAEXPO **Registration**

PLEASE NOTE UPCOMING DATES FOR EVENTS

December 10, 2025 OFA Holiday Party, Portland Golf Club, Portland, OR
December 11, 2025 WOMA Holiday Party, Topgolf, Renton, WA
February 17-19, 2026 WPMAEXPO - MGM Grand - Las Vegas, NV
April 23-24, 2026 ECAN (Nevada) Big Dogs, Red Rock Resort, Las Vegas, NV
UPDATED DATES
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

2026 WPMAEXPO KEYNOTE SPEAKER

TIM TEBOW

Tim Tebow knows what it takes to lead with purpose under pressure. From championship locker rooms to the boardroom, he challenges leaders and teams to rethink success—not by what they achieve, but by the impact they create.

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