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LAWMAKER URGES FAA TO REPLACE LEADED AVIATION FUEL WITH UNLEADED

Earlier this week, House Energy and Commerce Committee ranking member Henry Waxman (D-CA) sent a letter to the Federal Aviation Administration's Acting Administrator, Michael Huerta, urging the agency to reduce the use of leaded fuel in general aviation aircraft because of environmental and health concerns. AvGas is currently exempted from EPA's rules that eliminated lead from motor fuels.

According to the FAA, it plans to reduce the use of leaded AvGas fuel and develop a replacement unleaded fuel by 2018. Rep. Waxman wants the FAA to expedite the process citing an Aviation Fuel Club's study which shows lead-free gasoline can power 80 percent of all piston aircraft. The general aviation industry expressed several liability concerns with lead-free gasoline when the EPA sought comments on limiting lead in general aviation aircraft in an advance notice of public rulemaking in 2010. These issues will need to be addressed before any replacement fuel is certified for general aviation use.

EPA QUESTIONED ON PARTICULATE MATTER STUDIES

Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA), Chairman of the House Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee has sent a letter to EPA Inspector General Arthur Elkins asking him to investigate tests on humans conducted by the EPA. It has been reported that EPA exposed vulnerable citizens to airborne particulate matter in an effort to prove more regulations on PM are needed. If EPA believed PM was dangerous, Broun questions EPA's decision to test it on humans.

"In light of EPA's characterization of health and mortality concerns associated with these pollutants and its execution of experiments that appear inconsistent with these findings, I question the appropriateness of testing humans with high concentrations of pollutants that EPA considers dangerous at any level," Broun wrote. Broun said a 58-year-old woman was taken to the hospital with cardiac arrhythmia after inhaling particulates in a 2010 EPA experiment. Sen. James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.) called for congressional oversight of the studies Sept. 28.

FMCSA WARNS OF FRAUDULENT U.S DOT LETTERS SEEKING COMPANY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is warning of a new round of fraudulent letters to petroleum marketers which is part of a reoccurring nationwide identity theft scheme. The letter targets both marketers bidding for contracts or supply quotes with U.S. government agencies as well as those who are not involved with government contracting. The letter appears on Department of Transportation (DOT) letterhead and is entitled "Authorization to Release Financial Information Form". The letter generally arrives by fax and typically signed by someone claiming to be a "Senior Procurement Officer" with the DOT. A Washington, D.C. address is included in the letter but little other identifying information is provided. This letter is fraudulent. The DOT never requests financial information from prospective contractors wishing to submit bid proposals or quotes for goods or services. Other versions of a similar letter have been sent out to contractors purporting to be from Equifax and other companies. These letters are also a fraudulent means to obtain financial information.

The DOT recommends that any company responding to the fraudulent letter notify their financial institution immediately. For questions about a DOT request regarding procurement, contact the Office of the Senior Procurement Executive at (202) 366-4263 or the office of procurement for any of the individual DOT operating administrations. If you would like to report a fraudulent request for information to DOT, please contact the Office of Inspector General (OIG) by calling (800) 424-9071. Go to http://www.oig.dot.gov/sites/dot/files/fraud_wallaceltr_040109.pdf for an example of these letters being sent out to prospective government contractors. For more information on the letters from Equifax please visit their website at http://www.debtwise.com/cs7/Satellite?c=EFX_Page_C&childpagename=US/EFX_Page_C/SimplePage&cid=1187894212999&p=1187894212914&packedargs=locale=en_us&pagename=EFX/Wrapper.

US TO ACHIEVE RECORD OIL PRODUCTION

According to the Associated Press, U.S. oil output is surging so fast that the United States could soon overtake Saudi Arabia as the world's biggest producer. Driven by high prices and new drilling methods, U.S. production of crude and other liquid hydrocarbons is on track to rise seven percent this year to an average of 10.9 million barrels per day. This will be the fourth straight year of crude increases and the biggest single-year gain since 1951.

The Energy Department forecasts that U.S. production of crude and other liquid hydrocarbons, which includes biofuels, will average 11.4 million barrels per day next year. That would be a record for the U.S. and just below Saudi Arabia's output of 11.6 million barrels. Citibank forecasts U.S. production could reach 13 million to 15 million barrels per day by 2020, helping to make North America "the new Middle East."

The last year the U.S. was the world's largest producer was 2002, after the Saudis drastically cut production because of low oil prices in the aftermath of 9/11. Since then, the Saudis and the Russians have been the world leaders.

Increased drilling is driving economic growth in states such as North Dakota, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Montana and Texas, all of which have unemployment rates far below the national average of 7.8 percent. North Dakota is at 3 percent and Oklahoma at 5.2 percent. Businesses that serve the oil industry, such as steel companies that supply drilling pipe and railroads that transport oil, aren't the only ones benefiting. Homebuilders, auto dealers and retailers in energy-producing states are also getting a lift.

"Five years ago, if I or anyone had predicted today's production growth, people would have thought we were crazy," says Jim Burkhard, head of oil markets research at IHS CERA, an energy consulting firm.

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July 31-August 2, 2013 - Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention - Sun Valley Resort - Sun Valley, Idaho

September 12-13, 2013 - Utah (UPMRA) Convention - Zermatt Resort - Midway, UT

Petro Pete: ***"Thanks to Halloween...the cobwebs in my house have just become decorations."***

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