

MEMBER SERVICE SPOTLIGHT**HUMAN TRAFFICKING
IN OUR BACKYARD**

Convenience Stores Against Trafficking (CSAT), is a program of national nonprofit, In Our Backyard, which empowers the convenience store industry to take a stand against the atrocity of human trafficking in America and is an official partner of WPMA.

CSAT provides training, victim outreach, and public awareness of human trafficking to convenience store partners. As the eyes and ears of our nation's communities, convenience store employees can learn to spot human trafficking, safely report traffickers, and save lives. CSAT is a vital link in stopping human trafficking in America. CSAT has partnerships in more than 40 states, representing more than 13,000 locations. To learn more, register your stores, or support our work with a donation, please visit: www.inourbackyard.org/csat

[Access a full training video HERE](#)

**UTAH SURVEY WINNERS**

Those that took the time to send feedback regarding the UPMRA Convention through the survey had a chance to win an Amazon Gift Card. Here are the lucky winners!

**Clarke Stahle
Jamison Humphreys
Adam Vandermyde
Kevin Goodwin
Christopher Rawson
Jim Amicone
Wes Robinson**

Thank you to all that participated in the event and in the survey!

TWO FREE TOBACCO PRODUCTS WEBINARS

Center for Tobacco Products has two tobacco compliance webinars available for viewing:

[The 5 Ws of Advertising and Labeling Compliance Check Inspections](#) provides the public with basic information on advertising and labeling compliance check inspections. It reviews the types of compliance check inspections CTP conducts, and the "who, what, where, when and why" of advertising and labeling inspections.

[The 5 Ws of Undercover Buy Compliance Check Inspections](#) provides the public with basic information on undercover buy compliance check inspections. It reviews the types of compliance check inspections CTP conducts, and the "who, what, where, when and why" of undercover buy inspections.

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



EMA MEETS WITH THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT BUDGET (OMB) ON PROPOSED MENTHOL BAN

This week, EMA President Rob Underwood, along with EMA Convenience Store Committee members Jonathan Tang (Ira Philips, Inc., Gadsden, Alabama) and Brian Lohman (ASAP Energy; Weatherford, Oklahoma), met with the OMB to call on the Biden Administration to abandon the proposed menthol ban. The proposed menthol ban is currently under review by the OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), the last step in the regulatory process before the rule can become final. EMA highlighted FDA's failure to enforce its ban on flavored vapes which has led to a flood of illegal, disposable vapes manufactured in China and marketed to children. A menthol prohibition will drive legitimate transactions out of stores and into the illicit market, hurting small businesses and funding violent crime. There is no scientific evidence to support a nationwide public health policy that would treat menthol cigarettes differently than other cigarettes. EMA also highlighted the proposed menthol ban's impact on small businesses across the country. Banning the use of menthol in cigarettes could also have a cascading effect on companies who supply fuel to independently owned and operated small business gas stations. Retailers may be unable to pay for their next load of fuel and pay for EV charging equipment unless they raise prices on in-store items and/or fuel due to the potential major revenue loss from a menthol flavor ban.

Additionally, EMA reiterated its [Citizen Petition](#) to the White House to drive more awareness and enforcement action against illegal vape products. A citizen petition is a way for individuals, members of a regulated industry, or consumer groups to petition FDA to issue, amend, or revoke a regulation, or to take other administrative action. The purpose of submitting a petition in this instance is to ask FDA to publish a list of deemed tobacco products by brand that may and may not be sold to help retailers comply with tobacco sales laws. A published list would reduce confusion and uncertainty in the marketplace while also assisting FDA's enforcement efforts. The delays and uncertainty have a very real impact on the daily lives of American entrepreneurs including EMA's member companies who require predictability and transparency to operate. EMA's member companies and other retailers are well positioned to aid in the fight against illegal and dangerous products by keeping them off their shelves, but the ability to do so requires clear and rational regulatory framework, with changes communicated consistently and transparently.

Meanwhile, the House Small Business Committee sent a letter to the OMB/OIRA regarding the proposed menthol ban urging them to consider both the significant economic impacts on small entities and the fueling of illicit markets that would result from implementation of the proposed rule. According to NACS, the proposed rule would cause a single convenience store to lose \$72,285 a year in non-tobacco sundry sales (nearly 4 percent of inside sales) on top of the \$160,107 lost due to the reduction in sales of tobacco products. Small operators in the convenience industry would collectively lose \$2.16 billion in sales, representing \$232,392 in lost sales per store. Click [here](#) to read the letter.

INSIDE THE BELTWAY UPDATE

Before we get into the big news this week regarding government funding, we must note that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) endorsed the Credit Card Competition Act (CCCA), with Teamsters President Sean O'Brien noting that passage of CCCA would "ease inflationary pressures on working people and establish greater accountability in the financial market." This is a very significant endorsement that can be instrumental in pressuring Senate Democratic Leadership (read: Sen. Chuck Schumer) to bring the bill to the floor for a vote, where most on either side of the legislation believe it will pass.

Across Capitol Hill, new Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) was able to lead the House through a legislative quagmire to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) and avoid a government shutdown until at least January 19. It's worth noting that unlike the previous CR which cost Speaker McCarthy his gavel, this one is two steps, with one-third of the government being funded until January 19 and the remainder funded through February 2. Despite that difference, being referred to as a "laddered CR," it is, like Speaker McCarthy's bill, a "clean" CR, extending funding at its current levels and including no cuts or policy changes desired by members of the Freedom Caucus. So, while the government now remains funded through the holidays and the new year, the honeymoon for Speaker Johnson is over, with the far-right loudly expressing its displeasure and opposition to Mr. Johnson's approach. This is also significant because it shows that, despite his strong conservative ideology, Mr. Johnson is not opposed to working with Democrats to get things done.

Separately, on Monday, Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) – who recently announced his retirement from the Senate – asked Treasury to "strictly interpret" the EV tax credit to bar Chinese suppliers from contributing anything to credit-eligible vehicles. Automakers have noted that barring Chinese manufacturers from the supply chain for EVs would severely limit their ability to produce vehicles in their proposed timelines. Automakers are urging a more lax approach to this provision, which they say would enable them to comply while maintaining their production targets.

EMA ENCOURAGES CONGRESS TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING

Yesterday, EMA joined like-minded organizations in submitting a [letter](#) to House and Senate Leadership urging Congress to delay implementation of the beneficial ownership reporting under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) by one year.

The CTA requires the submission of regular reports to the federal government identifying the beneficial owners of businesses and other legal entities. The stated goal is to target shell companies used in illicit financial transactions, but the new law defines

the targeted entities as those having 20 or fewer employees and under \$5 million in revenue. In other words, not just shell companies but nearly every small business in America.

The scope of the data collection is beyond anything the Federal government has ever attempted outside of the Tax Code. Covered entities will be required to provide the personal information of their so-called beneficial owners – owners, board members, senior employees, attorneys, etc. – and then constantly monitor the information to ensure it is current. The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) expects to receive more than 32 million separate reports in 2024, with an additional five to six million filings each year thereafter, and FinCEN is not ready. Furthermore, FinCEN is woefully behind when it comes to educating stakeholders of their new obligations. A National Federation of Independent Business survey found that 90 percent of respondents were entirely unfamiliar with the reporting requirements. EMA strongly urges Congress to act now and delay implementation of the Corporate Transparency Act by one year.

CONTINUE TO URGE CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE CREDIT CARD COMPETITION ACT!

EMA continues to urge all jobbers and retailers to reach out to their Senators and ask them to VOTE YES on the Credit Card Competition Act. This bill would reduce swipe fees and allow retailers a choice of network to handle the transaction through competition which would save Americans and businesses around \$15 billion in swipe fees per year. Our industry's share of that comes to around \$9,000 per store per year.

[CLICK HERE TO URGE SENATORS TO SUPPORT THE CREDIT CARD COMPETITION ACT](#)

WEEKEND READS

[ExxonMobil drilling first lithium well in Arkansas, aims to be a leading supplier for electric vehicles by 2030](#)

[How much more electric cars depreciate than petrol, diesel, or hybrids](#) | [Car Expert](#)

[Big power's EV charging strategy: Raise rates, overpromise, underdeliver, repeat](#) | [Utility Dive](#)

[First U.S. commercial direct carbon capture facility opens in Tracy](#) | [CBS News](#)

[US plans to buy 1.2 million barrels of oil for Strategic Petroleum Reserve](#) | [Reuters](#)

[Tesla EV charging domination concerns some in industry, Congress \(axios.com\)](#)

FEDERATED INSURANCE:

Employment Practices Network HR Question of the Month

Federated Insurance's HR Question of the Month focuses on employment-related practices liability issues. This month's question is: Employee Notice Period. We had an employee give his two weeks' notice today; he wants to work for the next two weeks and then voluntarily leave our company.

However, this individual has not been a good employee and will add little value to our organization for the next two weeks. We would rather just tell him that his resignation is effective immediately and not have to pay him for another two weeks. Are we allowed to accelerate his notice period and make his resignation effective immediately? Please click [here](#) to read the response.

Please always feel free to contact your **Federated** regional representative or EMA's National Account Executive **Jon Medo** at 800.533.0472 for any additional information or risk management questions.

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

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

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

The EMA Journal summer issue is now available.

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PLEASE NOTE UPCOMING DATES FOR WPMA EVENTS

December 6, 2023 - OFA Holiday Party - Portland Golf Club - Portland, OR

December 7, 2023 - WA Holiday Party - Topgolf - Renton, WA

February 13, 2024 - Utah UPMRA Day on Capitol Hill - 12:00 - 1:30 pm - Salt Lake City, UT

February 20-22, 2024 - WPMAEXPO - Mirage/Hard Rock Resort - Las Vegas, NV

April 25-26, 2024 - Nevada (NPM&CSA) Big Dogs - Red Rock & Siena Golf Course - Las Vegas, NV

June 4-5, 2024 - Montana (MPMCSA) Convention - Fairmont Hot Springs Resort - Fairmont, MT

June 17-19, 2024 - Washington Energy Convention - Suncadia Lodge - Cle Elum, WA

August 7-9, 2024 - Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention - Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, ID

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS



OREGON HOLIDAY PARTY

Click [here](#) to register for the Oregon Holiday Party at the Portland Golf Club in Portland, Oregon held December 6, 2023.



WASHINGTON HOLIDAY PARTY

Click [here](#) to register for the WA Holiday Party at Topgolf in Renton, Washington held December 7, 2023.



WPMAEXPO

Click [here](#) to register for the WPMAEXPO at The Mirage Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada held February 20-22, 2024

There is Always SOMETHING TO BE Thankful FOR

SCHOLARSHIP \$4,000 OPPORTUNITY!

WPMA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

CLICK HERE for WPMA SCHOLARSHIP 2024 Information

Petro Pete: The man who invented knock-knock jokes should get a no bell prize.

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