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## **SHORT-TERM GOVERNMENT SPENDING BILL SIGNED INTO LAW THROUGH DECEMBER 20TH**

Last night, President Trump signed a stopgap spending bill into law through December 20th which now sets the stage for a possible breakthrough in negotiations on a full year government spending bill and a tax extenders package. PMAA continues to urge Congress to include a retroactive extension of the \$1 per gallon biodiesel blenders tax credit. Congress could also include retirement fixes and technical fixes to the GOP's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

PMAA continues to urge you to reach out to lawmakers in support of the \$1 per gallon biodiesel blender's tax credit by clicking [here](https://www.pmaa.org/advocacy/advocacy/#/26) (<https://www.pmaa.org/advocacy/advocacy/#/26>).

## **CALIFORNIA TO BOYCOTT AUTOMAKERS WHO DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE STATE'S GHG EMISSIONS AUTHORITY**

### **Tesla Bullet Proof Cyber Truck a Bust**

Last week, California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that the state would only buy vehicles from manufacturers that back the state in its fight with the Trump administration over tailpipe emissions standards. Those automakers are Ford, Volkswagen, BMW and Honda.

Furthermore, and starting immediately, state agencies will no longer buy sedans powered by internal-combustion engines. The state will only purchase hybrids and electric cars and trucks. The rule will have exceptions for some public-safety vehicles. The state has about 40,000 vehicles, approximately 8,400 of which are sedans.

General Motors, Fiat Chrysler and Toyota came out on the side of the Trump administration last month and now the California Governor is punishing those automakers for disagreeing with his Administration. The announcement came the same day California sued the Trump administration again over those standards.

Meanwhile, Tesla unveiled its futuristic pickup truck at a promotional event in Los Angeles last night. CEO Elon Musk claimed it was bullet proof. They tried a demonstration by throwing a metal ball at the glass and let's just say that it didn't turn out as planned.

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES SWEEPING TOBACCO AND E-CIGARETTE LEGISLATION**

### ***Trump Backs Off Flavor Ban on E-Cigarettes***

This week, the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved H.R. 2339, the "Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019," by a 24-20 vote. The bill sponsored by Committee Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Rep. Donna Shalala (D-FL) now heads to the House floor for a vote. The bill has a chance to pass the full House but faces an uphill battle in the Senate which is not likely to consider the bill this Congress.

Committee Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR) said that "members on both sides of aisle want to act to end the youth vaping epidemic and prevent future tobacco use by children, but I fear this legislation could inadvertently contribute to a growing illicit and deadly market and those with nicotine addictions, both adults and children, would turn to more dangerous unregulated products."

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle expressed their concerns with banning menthol in traditional cigarettes. Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) stated that "banning menthol in combustible cigarettes is unfair and it is discriminatory." Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY) also expressed her concern with the ban on menthol in cigarettes, saying that she is concerned "that the inclusion of menthol in the bill's flavor ban will have unintended consequences for communities that are already over-policed and lacking cessation resources." Furthermore, Rep. David McKinley (R-WV) said that if this bill were to become law, it would "create a black market for menthol cigarettes and other flavored nicotine products."

Recently, the PMAA Convenience Store Committee held a call to discuss provisions of H.R. 2339. The PMAA C-Store Committee decided to oppose the provision in H.R. 2339 that seeks to ban menthol cigarettes. NACS, SIGMA and PMAA are concerned that a ban on menthol cigarettes will promote a black market.

The bill proposes several things including:

- Raising the minimum age of purchase to 21 (PMAA is neutral on this issue and has left it up to each state to decide their position).
- Banning all non-face-to-face sales of all tobacco products including delivery sales.

- Prohibiting flavoring of tobacco products (includes menthol cigarettes, flavored cigars, and flavored chewing tobacco).
- Make it unlawful to market, advertise or promote any e-cigarette product to individuals under the age of 21. This would include requiring manufacturers of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to be held to the same advertising and sales requirements currently applied to the sale, distribution, and use of traditional cigarettes.
- Increasing user fees (FDA will have the authority to collect user fees from all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. It also increases the total amount of user fees collected each year by \$100 million).

Meanwhile, it was reported this week that President Trump has backed off his administration's plan to ban flavored e-cigarettes due to the possibility that he could lose support from his base over the issue. The administration was set to announce a plan that would ban flavored e-cigs late last week, but President Trump decided to hold off for the time being. Proponents of flavored e-cigarette products have argued that the products are safer than traditional cigarettes and have allowed people to quit smoking.

### PRO-ISLAMIC STATE TARGETS GAS STATIONS AND PETROLEUM TRANSPORT TRUCKS FOR ATTACKS

Provided for your situational awareness from the U.S. Department of Transportation, [here is a graphic](https://www.pmaa.org/weeklyreview/attachments/AlQurayshMedia_112219.jpg) (https://www.pmaa.org/weeklyreview/attachments/AlQurayshMedia\_112219.jpg) produced by the Pro-Islamic State Al-Quraysh Media Foundation titled "Gas Station Plan Less and New Target." This graphic appears to be an attempt by the group to incite attacks against gas stations, oil pipelines, and oil/gas transport trucks.

DOT analysis found that the attack methods proposed would lend to the assessment that the group doesn't fully understand the ecosystem in which they suggest targeting – or they were just throwing out random ideas to "see what may stick." Further, no picture within this graphic appears to be inherently American and all images are easily accessed via the internet, indicating no preoperational surveillance was conducted before suggesting any attack method.

Methods of attack mentioned:

- **"Target oil and gas transport trucks with accidental accident that causes the truck to overturn"** (DOT analytical comment: trucking crashes involving heavy vehicles carrying petroleum products happen every day – and very rarely have they ever exploded upon impact with another vehicle or object.)
- **"Target gas stations by throwing a cigarette to look like an accident"** (DOT comment: A cigarette has the potential to light a pool of gasoline but doesn't have enough sustained heat. Gasoline ignites between 500 °F and 540 °F, a cigarette at its hottest is between 450 °F and 500 °F but only when it was actually being smoked or ignited. Additionally, the ignition of a whole "gas station" using a cigarette is very improbable as fuel tanks are typically below ground and oxygen levels are kept to a minimum).
- **"Do a search for the presence of oil pipelines, and burn them"** (DOT comment: due to the heavy materials used in the construction of an oil pipeline (presumably an above ground pipeline in this instance), simply "finding it and lighting it on fire" is not plausible.)

Analysis of the graphic noted the following information on the pictures used:

- **Masked armed combatant** (DOT comment: this graphic has been used in previous publications by Al-Quraysh and does not appear "tailored" for the attack methods mentioned – lack of lit cigarette, anything to do with arson, etc.).
- **Gas station** (DOT comment: the gas station photo is of a "Bonjour" brand station and was originally published in 2012).
- **Oil pipeline valve** (DOT comment: the pipeline graphic is a generic stock graphic).
- **Petroleum tanker transport truck** (DOT comment: this is a stock photograph – name of the company on the side of the truck was not able to be discovered).

PMAA urges everyone to review their security plans and to remain vigilant.

### DEMOCRATS INTRODUCE BILL SEEKING A 100 PERCENT CLEAN ECONOMY BY 2050

This week, Rep. Donald McEachin (D-VA) introduced a bill that sets a goal of the U.S. reaching net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050. The bill will direct federal agencies to cut carbon pollution through the use of "regulations, incentives, research and development, steps to reduce their own emissions, and any other action appropriate to achieve the national goal."

The bill specifically tasks the EPA with evaluating agency plans, making recommendations to strengthen them as needed and providing an annual report on the progress made toward reaching the goal of a 100 percent clean energy economy. Additionally, the bill asks for the creation of an EPA advisory committee that can provide recommendations for reaching emissions goals.

The overly ambitious bill stands little chance of passing Congress, although it was introduced to unify Democrats and is merely a policy framework created to bring lawmakers to the discussion table to come up with future plans to address climate issues.

Meanwhile, House Ways and Means Democrats introduced draft legislation known as the “Growing Renewable Energy and Efficiency Now (GREEN) Act” that is aimed at extending certain expired clean energy tax provisions while creating other tax credits. The intent of the GREEN Act is to start a conversation on energy-related taxes and passage is unlikely in the Republican-controlled Senate.

The draft bill would retroactively extend the \$1 per gallon biodiesel blender’s tax credit through 2021 and phase the credit down to \$0.75 in 2022, \$0.50 in 2023, and \$0.33 in 2024, before lapsing entirely. The bill would also modify the EV tax credit to provide a \$7,000 credit, which would be reduced from \$7,500, while increasing the manufactured vehicle threshold by 400,000 additional EVs to 600,000.

## PLAN TO ATTEND THE 2020 WPMAEXPO



Mark your calendars for February 18-20, 2020. Make plans now to attend the 2020 WPMAEXPO. It will be held once again at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 18-20, 2020** – WPMA Convention & Expo – Mirage Hotel– Las Vegas, NV
- April 21, 2020** – IPM&CSA PAC Golf Tournament – Ridgecrest GC – Nampa, ID
- April 21-23, 2020** - Federated Insurance Risk Management Academy
- May 7-8, 2020** – Nevada NPM&CSA – Big Dogs - Las Vegas, NV
- June 2-3, 2020** – Montana MPMCSA – Convention – Fairmont Hot Springs Resort – Fairmont, MT
- June 22-25, 2020** – Washington (WOMA) – Convention – Suncadia Resort – Cle Elum, Washington
- August 5-7, 2020** – Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention – Coeur d’ Alene Resort – Coeur d’ Alene, Idaho
- August 17-19, 2020** – New Mexico (NMPMA) Convention – Sandia Resort & Casino – Albuquerque, NM
- September 9-10, 2020** – Utah (UPMRA) – Convention – Park City Marriott – Park City, Utah
- September 15-17, 2020** - Federated Insurance Risk Management Academy

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**Petro Pete: “Keep the dream alive: Hit the snooze button.”**

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