

Nevada Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association

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Last week saw the end of the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature. More than 1000 bills were introduced in the 120 day session; 26 of them impacted petroleum marketers.

NPM&CSA did not sponsor any specific legislation but rather was on defense this session. Among the most egregious bills was a trial lawyers' effort to require any business that had video surveillance to produce a tape of an alleged slip or fall or other accident when requested by an attorney. This is the second session the trial bar has attempted to pass such legislation in Nevada. A broad-based coalition of small businesses was able to defeat their effort again this session.

Another equally bad bill was offered on behalf of a Las Vegas biodiesel producer. This was the third session a bill of this type has been introduced. The bill this session attempted to decouple biodiesel from straight diesel for purposes of taxation. While we were able to remove this provision, the bill passed with a new definition of biodiesel - now called biomass fuels.

Two bills to raise motor fuel taxes were introduced this session, one would have raised the tax rate 2 cents every year for 10 years. NPM&CSA supported this statewide levy but it was ultimately defeated. The association was neutral in a Clark County bill to impose indexing in the county. The bill passed the legislature but will still require a vote of the County Commission.

The teachers' margin tax initiative was not taken up by the legislature, thus it will go to the ballot in November 2014. This initiative if passed would impose a 2% tax on gross margins minus one of three exclusions. Nevada businesses are expecting to spend more than five million dollars in an effort to defeat this initiative.

Director Lawrence Waugh travelled to Spring Creek, Nevada to present the Nevada/WPMA scholarship award to Makenna Johnson. Her father is employed by Western Energetix aka Flyers.

Last month in Las Vegas the association held its second annual Big Dogs Shootout at the Red Rock Resort. All who attended enjoyed the two-day event. NPM&CSA wishes to thank all the attendees and sponsors who participated. Planning has already begun for the third annual event set for May, 2014.