SSDA News

Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades

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Incoming Dem chair: Infrastructure deal wouldn't just be win for Trump

By Roy Littlefield

Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), who is expected to be chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee this year, said that Democrats are willing to work with President Trump on an infrastructure package, even if a deal on transportation would give the GOP president a win.

At an event hosted by The Atlantic, DeFazio said that Democrats will "have plenty of other places to campaign against the president."

"Infrastructure is to the benefit of all the people in the United States of America, Democrat, Republican, independent," he added.

DeFazio also said that if infrastructure legislation is enacted, Trump wouldn't be able to take complete credit because Congress didn't act on infrastructure when Republicans controlled both of its chambers.

"He can take some credit but he sure as heck can't take total credit because they controlled everything and they did nothing," he said.

DeFazio reiterated his goal for the House to pass an infrastructure bill in the first six months of next year. He said he hopes the Senate "can act a little more expeditiously than usual."

Republicans and Democrats have broadly agreed on the need for more infrastructure investments, but the challenge is figuring out how to pay for new spending. DeFazio touted his bill to index gas and diesel taxes to inflation, saying he plans to refine it and propose it to the White House. But he also said that it will be up to the House Ways and Means Committee to figure out how to offset the cost of new transportation spending.

DeFazio said that he needs Trump's help "because we're going to have to do some revenues and we're going to need him to show people that it's okay to do a little bit of revenues."

Previous proposals from the Trump administration have focused on public-private partnerships for infrastructure, but DeFazio has said that he thinks the White House is now open to a significant increase in federal funding.

DeFazio said that public-private partnerships are a tool that can be used in some cases but that there is only a small percentage of projects that lend themselves to be financed that way. Similarly, he said that he thinks an infrastructure bank would also be a "minor tool" that only lends itself well to certain types of projects.

DeFazio's home state of Oregon has been piloting a tax on vehicle miles traveled (VMT) — an idea that has gained interest as cars are becoming more fuel-efficient. DeFazio said that it's likely that the country will move to VMT taxes in the future but that the shift doesn't need to happen yet because most vehicles still rely on gas and diesel. He said that he plans to propose a national pilot of a VMT tax in which people can opt-in to participate.

Search and Social: Using Advertising Platforms In Unison For Maximum Impact

By: Sam Chiarelli of Net Driven

For several years, marketers and advertisers debated the merits of investing in either Google Ads or Facebook advertising.

The choice was difficult. Google targeted users based on keywords entered into their search engine. Facebook's user data on user interests and behavior was used to match people to the products and services they'd most want to see. In short, Google would help you find new customers, while Facebook helped customers find you.

Recently a number of studies, coupled with real world experiences, have changed the debate entirely. Because of their unique features, each platform has its merits in a fully developed advertising strategy. Now, the question is how to fully use both Facebook and Google for maximum impact and ROI.

According to Search Engine Journal, using the platforms in tandem has significant benefits:

30% increase in Return on Ad Spend

7% increase in Click Through Rate

4.5% lower Cost-per-Acquisition

And those aren't the only benefits. By strategizing around your customer journeys and marketing funnels, you can create scenarios where you find customers on one platform and get them to convert on another.

For example, running Facebook ads led to a 34% increase in brand searches through Google search, according to WordStream. This means users saw an ad on Facebook, but then searched for

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Search and Social: Using Advertising Platforms In Unison For Maximum Impact

Continued from page 2

the brand through Google's search engine. By targeting their brand name with Google Ads, businesses were able to entice users to convert.

Another key tool in this multi-platform approach is retargeting. Suppose a user clicks through a Google ad to a landing page on your website. The user is interested, but ultimately opts out of making a purchase or setting up an appointment. But by retargeting this user with Facebook ads, your business can stay prominent in this user's mind. Some businesses even use this technique to offer additional perks to users to increase the likelihood that they will convert.

By creating consistent messaging on multiple platforms, all tailored to specific user types, you can make the most out of your leads. Building your brand online is no longer a decision about which platforms to use, but how to create a memorable, reliable experience across all platforms.

Further Reading:

https://www.wordstream.com/facebook-vs-google

https://www.wordstream.com/blog/ws/2018/07/09/facebook-plus-google

https://www.searchenginejournal.com/combine-audiences-facebook-adwords/244693/

https://wordstream-files-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/documents/how_to_compete_in_facebook_ads.pdf

Letter to the Editor

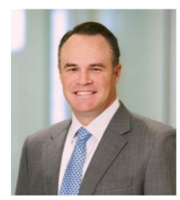
Dear SSDA-AT,

We are in the midst of Generation Energy. More natural gas and oil is produced in the United States than any other country in the world. At the same time, U.S. carbon dioxide emissions are at their lowest levels in a generation, largely because of the growing role played by clean natural gas. Our industry is an economic engine, supporting 10.3 million jobs – to produce, deliver and refine natural gas and oil – as well as jobs associated with energy development and the personal spending of our workers.

Guided by smart policies and regulations that unleash innovation and progress, natural gas and oil are playing a powerful role in America's economic progress and will for generations to come.

Sincerely,

MIKE SOMMERS, President and CEO, API



IRS Extends Filing Deadlines, Penalty Relief for Forms 1095-B and 1095-C

Insurers, self-insuring employers, other coverage providers, and applicable large employers now have until March 4, 2019, to provide individuals with Forms 1095-B, Health Coverage, or Forms 1095-C, Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage.

This is an extension from the original due date of January 31. The extension is automatic, so employers and providers do not have to request it.

The due dates for employers and insurers to file 2018 information returns with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are not extended. They are still due on February 28, 2019, for paper filers, and April 1, 2019, for electronic filers.

Perry Calls for Energy Infrastructure Build-Out

Energy Secretary Rick Perry said that the United States needed to expand its energy infrastructure to meet the increasingly diverse sources of energy powering the nation.

Speaking at an event hosted by the Consumer Energy Alliance, Perry cataloged strides in oil and natural gas production, advances in solar and wind technology, as well as the importance of nuclear energy.

"Today's consumers have more choices, more information, more say on their energy sources than ever before," he said. "If we're to seize this amazing moment in American energy, it is imperative we build more energy infrastructure."

The former Texas governor said that should include not only pipelines and power transmission lines but infrastructure in energy-producing regions like West Texas, including roads and schools.

Perry also talked at length about cyberattacks, saying the threat level was now approaching those of the period leading up to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"Protecting our energy infrastructure against those attacks is our highest priority," he said. "We must rise to the occasion."

The speech was perhaps most notable for what Perry did not talk about, namely the coal and nuclear bailouts pushed by President Donald Trump.

The administration at one point considered using its emergency powers to stop coal and nuclear plants from closing, according to a memo leaked this summer, but so far no action has been announced.

Perry left the event without taking questions from reporters.

Slowing Demand and a Supply Glut to Drain Oil's Gains in 2019: Reuters Poll

Oil analysts are increasingly pessimistic about the prospect of a price rally next year, when the outlook for demand is uncertain and supply is growing at breakneck speed, even though the market expects OPEC to cut output, a Reuters poll showed.

A survey of 38 economists and analysts forecast Brent crude LCOc1 to average $74.50 a barrel in 2019, lower than the $76.88 outlook last month. The poll predicted Brent would average $73.20 in 2018, mostly in line with the $73 average for the global benchmark so far this year.

"In the first half of next year we expect upward price pressure resulting from OPEC production cuts," said Adrià Morron Salmeron, economist at CaixaBank Research.

"Then, we expect downward price pressures from an uptick in U.S. shale production in the second half, as bottlenecks will disappear, and a deceleration of global growth."

Of the 32 contributors who participated in both the October and November polls, 16 cut their 2019 average price forecast for Brent.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries as well as Russia and other producers meet in Vienna on Dec. 6/7 in an attempt to support crude prices, which have fallen by over 30 percent from early October's four-year high of $86.74.

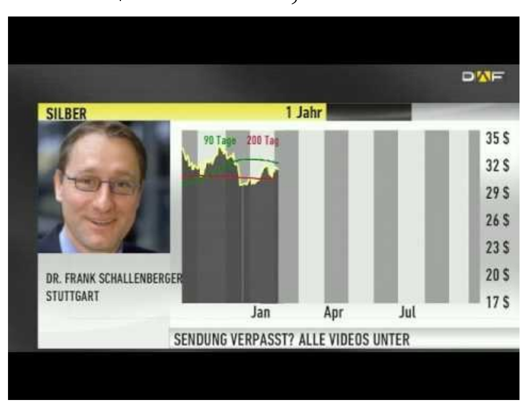
The group could announce cuts of anywhere between 1 and 1.4 million barrels per day, analysts said.

"The oil market is definitely oversupplied at the moment. Therefore, OPEC will decide to cut output in December," said Frank Schallenberger, head of commodity research at LBBW.

"The recent drop in prices was so strong that I think the non-OPEC members will either agree to freeze production or join in the cut."

A slowing global economy could erode oil demand growth next year, when supply from non-OPEC countries is forecast to expand at a record pace.

Citi had the lowest 2019 forecast for Brent at $57 a barrel, while ABN



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Slowing Demand and a Supply Glut to Drain Oil's Gains in 2019: Reuters Poll

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Amro and Raymond James had the highest, at $90.

FUNDAMENTAL GLOOM

The U.S. decision to grant waivers to countries that buy crude from Iran, hit by sanctions on its energy exports, has changed the dynamics in a market already under pressure from soaring output from the world's top three oil producers, the United States, Russia and Saudi Arabia, analysts said.

"Uncertainty over U.S. sanctions against Iran had made the market fixated with supply. The waivers changed the arithmetic, raising the possibility of a supply glut developing in 2019," said Konstantinos Venetis, senior economist at TSL Research.

Non-OPEC output could rise by 1.5 to 2.2 million bpd in 2019, led by U.S. shale, a few of the analysts said.

"Sharp increases in U.S. production will be a key impediment in upside potential for oil prices in 2019," said Benjamin Lu, commodities analyst at Phillip Futures.

The poll forecast U.S. light crude CLc1 to average $67.45 a barrel in 2019, down from $70.15 predicted in the previous poll. The contract has averaged about $66.40 so far in 2018.

Adding to the possible glut was a recovery in output from Nigeria and Libya, excluded from previous cuts because of production declines caused by unrest.

On the other hand, oil demand was seen growing by between 0.9 and 1.5 million bpd in 2019, compared with 1.1 to 1.5 million bpd projected in the previous month's poll.

"On the demand side, the main driver is the question how far worldwide economic growth will slow in 2019 and how far this will lead to lower dynamics of oil demand next year," LBBW's Schallenberger said.

Exclusive: EPA Lifts Advanced Biofuel Mandate for 2019

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lifted its annual blending mandate for advanced biofuels by 15 percent for 2019, while keeping steady the requirement for conventional biofuels like corn-based ethanol, according to an agency document seen by Reuters.

The mandate includes 4.92 billion gallons for advanced biofuels that can be made from plant and animal waste, an increase from the EPA's initial proposal in June of 4.88 billion and above the 4.29 billion that had been set for 2018, according to the document.

The requirement for conventional biofuels remains at 15 billion gallons for 2019, on par with 2018 and the same as proposed by the agency in June.

The EPA is required to announce formally the biofuel mandate figures, which are closely watched by the rival corn and oil industries.

Biodiesel blending credits rose 4 cents to trade at 46 cents on the report, before paring gains, two traders said.

Under the U.S. Renewable Fuel Standard, first adopted in 2005, oil refiners are required to blend a certain amount of biofuels, as determined by the EPA, into their fuel each year or purchase blending credits from those that do.

The policy has helped farmers by creating a huge market for ethanol and other biofuels, but oil refiners say compliance can cost a fortune.

The new figures confirm the agency has declined requests by the corn industry to reallocate biofuel blending obligations previously waived under the small refinery exemptions program, which has been expanded dramatically under the administration of President Donald Trump.

Small refineries can be exempted from the RFS if they prove that complying would cause them financial strain.

The powerful corn lobby and top officials in the U.S. Department of Agriculture have complained for months that the expansion of the waiver program since Trump took office threatens demand for ethanol.

An EPA official told Reuters earlier this week that the decision not to reallocate waived volumes was due mainly to timing.

"The primary reason why we're not reallocating in this rule is because we have no idea what the volume of SREs (Small Refinery Exemptions) will be for calendar 2019 and we won't know that late 2019, early 2020," the official said.

"ABUSIVE WAIVERS"

Exclusive: EPA Lifts Advanced Biofuel Mandate for 2019

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The Trump administration has also temporarily put on hold processing of current waiver applications as the EPA and the Department of Energy review the scoring system used to evaluate them, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The EPA is still expected to rule on current applications before the March 31 compliance deadline for the 2018 calendar year.

In an interview with Reuters, Bill Wehrum, assistant administrator at the EPA's Air and Radiation Department, said most applications have not yet been received.

"For calendar year 2018, I think we are only now starting to get applications, and the bulk of them we are not going to see until probably early next year," he said, but declined to comment on any expected change in the number of waivers granted.

"I am not going to predict what we may or may not do," he said. "Each waiver decision is based on an individual application filed by an affected entity."

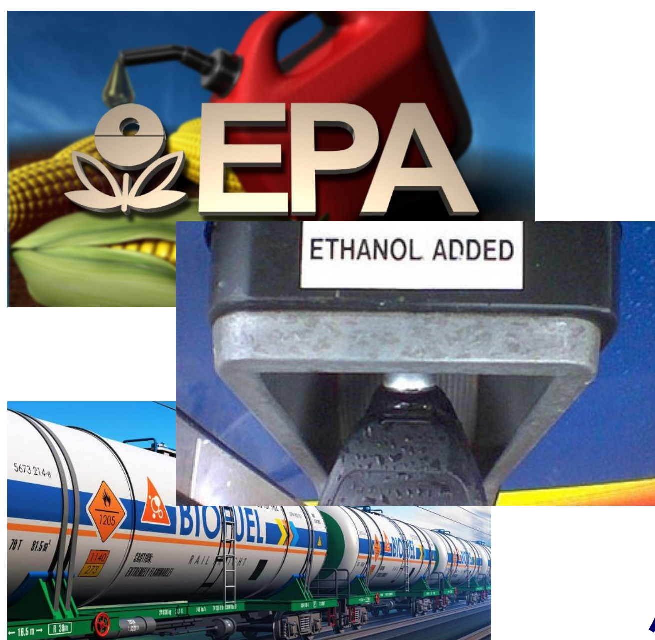
Biofuels industry participants repeated calls on the EPA to not grant too many waivers.

"Without a check on abusive EPA waivers, we'll continue to see plants closing their doors or idling production," Brooke Coleman, executive director at the Advanced Biofuels Business Council, said.

Trump has sought to please the corn lobby with a different tweak to U.S. biofuel policy: In October he directed the EPA to draft a rule allowing year-round sales of higher ethanol gasoline blends called E15 - a product restricted during the summer over concerns it contributes to smog.

Wehrum said the agency was on track to finalize the rule before June 1, in time for the 2019 driving season.

"We will get it done by then," he said. "I think there's a virtual certainty that we're going to get challenged in court. I think we gave a good legal argument."



U.S. to Conduct Additional Keystone XL Pipeline Review

The U.S. State Department will conduct another environmental review of TransCanada Corp's long-pending Keystone XL oil pipeline, a U.S. official said, a move that could lead to additional delays of the project.

The so-called supplemental environmental impact statement was ordered by Judge Brian Morris of the U.S. District Court in Montana in his ruling on Nov. 8 that blocked construction of the pipeline planned to bring heavy crude from Canada's oil sands to the United States.

Morris said in his ruling that previous environmental analysis of Keystone XL fell short of a "hard look" at the cumulative effects of greenhouse gas emissions and the impact on Native American land resources.

The $8 billion pipeline, which is supported by Canadian oil interests and U.S. refiners, but opposed by landowners and environmentalists, has been pending for a decade. President Donald Trump announced a permit for the project soon after he took office. Former President Barack Obama nixed the pipeline, saying it would do little to help U.S. consumers and would add greenhouse gases. TransCanada spokesman Terry Cunha said that the State Department's announcement of an additional review was expected after the judge's ruling.

TransCanada asked Morris, the District Court judge, to allow it to resume some U.S.-based pre-construction activities blocked by the initial ruling. Morris' decision gave the Calgary, Alberta-based company permission to resume some activity on the pipeline project, including project development work and stakeholder meetings.

It is not allowed to resume physical field work like moving pipe and equipment, preparing work camp sites or undertaking road upgrades at this time, Cunha said.

"It is too soon to say what the injunction will mean to the timeline of the Keystone XL pipeline but we remain confident the project will be built," Cunha said.

Report: Trump Stance Hurting Oil Sector, Texas Economy

President Trump's ongoing political pressure on Saudi Arabia and other foreign nations to keep oil prices low is harming the U.S. energy sector and the Texas economy, according to a new report by the Morningstar investment firm.

Oil prices have cratered since early October because of soaring output from the world's top producers, especially the U.S., but Trump has argued in favor of keeping oil prices low in order to generate cheaper gasoline costs. He's said that the Saudis, other OPEC nations and Russia should resist cutting production - as they're discussing - to push crude oil prices lower.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries meets this week in part to consider production cutbacks.

"The current administration's policy of rejecting any OPEC move to cut production is driven by short-term pursuit of headlines," said Sandy Fielden, Morningstar's director of oil and products research. "The longer-term consequences for the U.S. oil industry of pushing Saudi Arabia to reject production restraint will be felt directly in states such as Texas and North Dakota."

Because the U.S. now produces more oil than gasoline, Fielden estimates that the U.S. economy will suffer more from falling oil prices, offsetting the gains made from consumer savings at the gas pump.

Energy companies suffer, many thousands of people lose their jobs and the economies of states like Texas suffer.

"Trump has criticized any attempt at oil price support from Saudi Arabia, further weakening prices in the run up to the OPEC meeting this week," Fielden stated.

"Reduced drilling has a direct impact on employment and economic activity in the oil industry as well as a host of ancillary activities," he said. "Since the start of the oil shale boom these industries have been major engines of economic growth in Texas, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming."

Falling crude production also slows the path to energy independence often touted by the Trump administration, Fielden added.

Oil Exploration Activity Will Pick Up in 2019

There will be a pick up in oil exploration activity next year, compared to 2018, according to a new report from Fitch Solutions Macro Research.

“On an annual average basis, revenues will be boosted by higher oil prices, while still compressed services costs will flatter margins and bolster cash flows. This will give companies greater flexibility to increase their CAPEX and assume more risk,” the report stated.

“Exploration largely dried up following the oil price collapse in 2014, as companies focused on conserving their cash, gearing their spending towards lower risk, lower cost and shorter cycle projects. However, there are signs that exploration activity is starting to recover,” the report added.

Exploration in frontier and deepwater plays “is showing signs of recovery,” according to the report, which also reveals that exploration appetite is returning in more prospective plays.

Fitch Solutions Macro Research’s report highlights, however, that companies face continued constrains on their exploration spending.

“Financial discipline continues to be a key concern for oil companies globally. Discipline will slacken as prices rise, but fears of peak demand and the longer-term health of the industry will likely keep margins more sharply in focus. This is not a bad thing and improved capital efficiency, and lower services cost, means companies can effectively do more with less,” the report said.

“Arguably a bigger issue is not the level of spending, but how capital is allocated. As the market has recovered, much of the additional cash has been funneled towards shareholders (through dividends and buybacks) rather than towards productive investments. This competition for capital is likely to persist in 2019, continuing to drag on exploration next year,” the report added.

Earlier last month, Rystad Energy announced that there was less appetite for exploration drilling.

“Of the 100,000 wells drilled globally in 2013, four percent were exploration or appraisal wells. In 2018, this share is expected to drop to only two percent of the 70,000 wells drilled,” Rystad said in a company statement published on its website Nov. 9.

“This trend can be observed across both the offshore and the onshore markets and across the globe,” Rystad added.

The company said a willingness to invest more in exploration in 2019 and beyond “is likely.”

Analyst: Global oil demand will 'plateau, not peak' in about 15 years

Population growth and rising demand for plastics from emerging countries will help to prevent oil demand from peaking in the next 15 years, an analysis from RS Energy Group suggests.

As the world shifts away from fossil fuels and the use of more fuel-efficient cars, some analysts have predicted global demand for oil will peak around 2035 and then fall. But others say additional factors at play will keep strong fossil fuel demand afloat.

"We don't think oil demand will peak, instead it will plateau," said Al Salazar, from RS Energy Group suggests.

As the world shifts away from fossil fuels and the use of more fuel-efficient cars, some analysts have predicted global demand for oil will peak around 2035 and then fall. But others say additional factors at play will keep strong fossil fuel demand afloat.

"We don't think oil demand will peak, instead it will plateau," said Al Salazar, analyst with RS Energy speaking to a crowd of a few hundred industry professionals at the Post Oak Hotel in Houston. The Calgary research firm hosted an event on the future of the oil and gas industry.

The future of fossil fuel demand has huge implications for the Houston economy, where tens of thousands of workers are tied to the oil and gas industry.

Today, global oil demand is growing by about 1.3 million barrels per day. RS Energy expects that growth to about 250,000 barrels per day in growth by 2035 and plateau there.

By 2035, the global population will have increased by about 1 billion e people, and about 98 percent of those people will be in developing nations, Salazar said. Global economic growth typically supports growth in oil demand.

Rising in incomes in developing nations will likely increase the consumption of plastics. The growth in the plastics and the petrochemicals that make that possible could partially offset flattening demand in the transportation sector, he said.

Salazar said the relatively high cost of electric vehicles and concerns about the supply of cobalt for electric car batteries will likely dampen the impact that electric vehicles has on global oil demand for the time being.

Electric vehicles could start to make a more substantial dent in oil demand if manufacturers can produce electric vehicles for under $25,000 and if there is alternative to cobalt developed for electric vehicle batteries, he added.

Threats to global oil demand include further breakthroughs in fuel efficiency or reduced plastic demand due to sustained high oil prices and big increases in plastic recycling.

Until then, Salazar said, when someone asks if peak oil demand is close his response is "Not really, because we have some gas left in the tank."

Looking Ahead on Death Tax Repeal

A legislative priority for SSDA-AT and many other small business associations, is the repeal of the estate tax.

Prior to the midterm elections, SSDA-AT worked with the Family Business Coalition to secure commitments from members of the New Congress, which will convene in January 2019, to repeal this unfair tax which makes it prohibitive for many small business owners to pass the business on to another family member.

Death Tax Repeal Pledge Signers:
Pre-Primary: 294 pledge signers
Primary victors: 137 pledge signers
General election victors: 87 pledge signers

Rep. Martha Roby - Alabama 2nd Congressional District
Rep. Robert Aderholt - Alabama 4th Congressional District
Rep. Mo Brooks - Alabama 5th Congressional District
Rep. Don Young - Alaska At Large Congressional District
Mrs. Wendy Rogers - Arizona 1st Congressional District
Rep. Paul Gosar - Arizona 4th Congressional District
Rep. David Schweikert - Arizona 6th Congressional District
Rep. Martha McSally - Arizona Senate Seat
Rep. Rick Crawford - Arkansas 1st Congressional District
Rep. Doug LaMalfa - California 1st Congressional District
Rep. Tom McClintock - California 4th Congressional District
Mr. Tim Donnelly - California 8th Congressional District
Rep. Jeff Denham - California 10th Congressional District
Mrs. Christina Osmena - California 14th Congressional District
Rep. Kevin McCarthy - California 23th Congressional District
Mr. Benny Bernal - California 29th Congressional District
Mr. Mark Reed - California 30th Congressional District
Mr. Russ Lambert - California 46th Congressional District
Rep. Scott Tipton - Colorado 3rd Congressional District
Rep. Doug Lamborn - Colorado 5th Congressional District
Rep. Mike Coffman - Colorado 6th Congressional District
Mr. Matthew Corey - Connecticut Senate Seat
Rep. Ted Yoho - Florida 3rd Congressional District
Rep. Bill Posey - Florida 8th Congressional District
Rep Dan Webster - Florida 11th Congressional District
Mr. Greg Steube - Florida 17th Congressional District
Rep. Buddy Carter - Georgia 1st Congressional District
Rep. Austin Scott - Georgia 8th Congressional District
Rep. Doug Collins - Georgia 9th Congressional District
Rep. Jody Hice - Georgia 10th Congressional District
Rep. Rick Allen - Georgia 12th Congressional District
Rep. Tom Graves - Georgia 14th Congressional District
Rep. Mike Simpson - Idaho 2nd Congressional District
Rep. Randy Hultgren - Illinois 14th Congressional District
Rep. Adam Kinzinger - Illinois 16th Congressional District
Mr. Mike Braun - Indiana Senate Seat
Rep. Jackie Walorski - Indiana 2nd Congressional District
Rep. Jim Banks - Indiana 3rd Congressional District
Rep. Larry Buscshon - Indiana 8th Congressional District
Rep. Rodney Blum - Iowa 1st Congressional District
Rep. Steven King - Iowa 4th Congressional District
Rep. Brett Guthrie - Kentucky 2nd Congressional District
Rep. Thomas Massie - Kentucky 4th Congressional District
Rep. Andy Barr - Kentucky 6th Congressional District
Rep. Steve Scalise - Louisiana 1st Congressional District
Rep. Andy Harris - Maryland 1st Congressional District
Mrs. Liz Matory - Maryland 2nd Congressional District
Mr. John Hugo - Massachusetts 5th Congressional District
Rep. Bill Huizenga - Michigan 2nd Congressional District
Rep. Justin Amash - Michigan 3rd Congressional District
Rep. Fred Upton - Michigan 6th Congressional District
Rep. Tim Walberg - Michigan 7th Congressional District
Mrs. Candius Stearns - Michigan 9th Congressional District
Mr. John James - Michigan Senate Seat
Mr. Dave Hughes - Minnesota 7th Congressional District

Looking Ahead on Death Tax Repeal

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Ms. Karin Housley - Minnesota Senate Seat
Rep. Steven Palazzo - Mississippi 4th Congressional District
Mr. Chris McDaniel - Mississippi Senate Seat
Senator Roger Wicker - Mississippi Senate Seat
Mr. Chris McDaniel - Mississippi Senate Seat
Mr. Robert Vroman - Missouri 1st Congressional District
Rep. Vicky Hartzler - Missouri 4th Congressional District
Rep. Billy Long - Missouri 7th Congressional District
Mr. Josh Hawley - Missouri Senate Seat
Mr. Matt Rosendale - Montana Senate Seat
Senator Deb Fischer - Nebraska Senate Seat
Mr. Danny Tarkanian - Nevada 3rd Congressional District
Senator Dean Heller - Nevada Senate Seat
Mr. Eddie Edwards - New Hampshire 1st Congressional District
Mr. Mick Rich - New Mexico Senate Seat
Mr. Eliot Rabin - New York 12th Congressional District
Rep. Tom Reed - New York 23th Congressional District
Mr. Roger Allison - North Carolina 1st Congressional District
Rep. George Holding - North Carolina 2nd Congressional District
Rep. Virginia Foxx - North Carolina 5th Congressional District
Rep. David Rouzer - North Carolina 7th Congressional District
Rep. Richard Hudson - North Carolina 8th Congressional District
Rep. Robert Pittenger - North Carolina 9th Congressional District
Mr. Mark Harris - North Carolina 9th Congressional District
Rep. Patrick McHenry - North Carolina 10th Congressional District
Rep. Mark Meadows - North Carolina 11th Congressional District
Rep. Kevin Cramer - North Dakota Senate Seat
Rep. Steve Chabot - Ohio 1st Congressional District
Rep. Brad Wenstrup - Ohio 2nd Congressional District
Rep Jim Jordan - Ohio 4th Congressional District
Rep. Bob Latta - Ohio 5th Congressional District
Rep. Bill Johnson - Ohio 6th Congressional District
Rep. Steve Stivers - Ohio 15th Congressional District
Rep. Jim Renacci - Ohio Senate Seat
Mr. Mark Callahan - Oregon 5th Congressional District
Rep. Tom Marino - Pennsylvania 12th Congressional District
Rep. Mike Kelly - Pennsylvania 16th Congressional District
Rep. Lou Barletta - Pennsylvania Senate Seat
Rep. Joe Wilson - South Carolina 2nd Congressional District
Rep. Phil Roe - Tennessee 1st Congressional District
Rep. Chuck Fleischmann - Tennessee 3rd Congressional District
Rep. Scott DesJarlais - Tennessee 4th Congressional District
Mr. Dan Crenshaw - Texas 2nd Congressional District
Mr. Van Taylor - Texas 3rd Congressional District
Rep. John Ratcliffe - Texas 4th Congressional District
Mr. Lance Gooden - Texas 5th Congressional District
Mr. Ron Wright - Texas 6th Congressional District
Rep. John Culberson - Texas 7th Congressional District
Rep. Randy Weber - Texas 14th Congressional District
Mr. Rick Seeberger - Texas 16th Congressional District
Rep. Bill Flores - Texas 17th Congressional District
Mr. Chip Roy - Texas 21th Congressional District
Rep. Kenny Marchant - Texas 24th Congressional District
Rep. Roger Williams - Texas 25th Congressional District
Rep. Michael Burgess - Texas 26th Congressional District
Rep. Peter Sessions - Texas 32th Congressional District
Dr. Rey Gonzalez - Texas 34th Congressional District
Rep. Brian Babin - Texas 36th Congressional District
Senator Ted Cruz - Texas Senate Seat
Rep. Robert Bishop - Utah 1st Congressional District
Rep. Mia Love - Utah 4th Congressional District
Governor Mitt Romney - Utah Senate Seat
Mr. Ben Cline - Virginia 6th Congressional District
Rep. David Brat - Virginia 7th Congressional District
Mr. Corey Stewart - Virginia Senate Seat
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler - Washington 3rd Congressional District
Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rogers - Washington 5th Congressional District
Rep. David McKinley - West Virginia 1st Congressional District
Rep. Alex Mooney - West Virginia 2nd Congressional District
Rep. Sean Duffy - Wisconsin 7th Congressional District
Ms. Leah Vukmir - Wisconsin Senate Seat

Happy New Year SSDA-AT!

SSDA®
SERVICE STATION DEALERS OF AMERICA
AND ALLIED TRADES

Washington State Rejects $15/mt Carbon Fee

Washington state voters rejected a carbon fee that would have raised costs for oil refineries, natural gas-fired power plants and other large users of fossil fuels.

The fee, which was opposed by about 56% of voters, would have been the first of its kind in the US and, if passed, was expected to spur similar efforts to curb emissions in other states.

A similar carbon tax proposed in 2016 was rejected by 59% of voters.

The fee was estimated to generate an estimated $2.3 billion in revenue in the first five years. The carbon fee would have started at $15/mt in 2020 and increased by $2/mt annually until the state met its existing greenhouse gas reduction goal for 2035 and was on track to meet its 2050 goal.

Washington state is home to 3.4% of US oil refining capacity: BP West Coast Products' 227,000 b/d Ferndale plant, Shell Oil Products' 145,000 b/d Anacortes plant, Phillips 66's 105,000 b/d Ferndale plant, Andeavor's 120,000 b/d Anacortes plant, and US Oil & Refining's 40,700 b/d Tacoma plant.

The fee would not have applied to the state's sole coal-fired power plant, which is already required to close by 2025.

FMLA and Holidays

Determining whether company holidays count towards an employee’s Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) entitlement depends on whether the employee takes leave for an entire week or on a lesser intermittent or reduced schedule basis.

When a holiday occurs within a week in which an employee takes a full week of FMLA leave, the entire week is counted as FMLA leave. If, however, an employee is taking FMLA leave in increments less than one week, the holiday is not counted as FMLA leave, unless the employee was scheduled and expected to work on the holiday and used FMLA leave for that day.

Company shutdowns of one or more weeks where employees are not expected to report to work, such as for the Christmas/New Year holiday, a summer vacation, or a plant closing for retooling or repairs, do not count against an employee’s FMLA leave entitlement.

Employers should review their FMLA policies and practices to ensure they are compliant.

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