

PRARA NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

BY: KEVIN FORSYTHE

Dear PRARA Members and Board:

Gasoline price declines could soon be coming to an end in the coming months thanks to seasonal trends.

Recently, the average gallon of gasoline was sitting at \$3.09, down \$0.15 from a month ago, according to AAA data.

Across the US, at least 28 states saw their average dip below \$3 per gallon, compared to just 11 states in mid-November 2023.

Prices are expected to tick higher as the driving season kicks in. A more expensive summer blend and extreme heat or hurricanes may also impact prices in 2024.

When the dust settles at year's end, OPIS sees an average annual price of \$3.499 per gallon, amounting to the fifth most expensive year ever.

U.S. retail gasoline prices in 2023 averaged \$0.43 per gallon (gal) less than in 2022, according to data from our *Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Update*. This decline was due, in part, to lower crude oil prices in 2023 compared with 2022 and higher gasoline inventories in the second half of 2023. Compared with the last weekly average price snapshot of 2022, prices during the last week of 2023 were about even, up only \$0.02/gal.

The U.S. retail price for regular-grade gasoline, the price consumers pay at the pump, averaged \$3.52/gal in 2023. The price hit its 2023 high of \$3.88/gal in mid-September, well below the previous year's high of \$5.01/gal in June 2022. Prices decreased to \$3.05/gal at the end of 2023.

The lower relative gasoline prices primarily reflect lower crude oil prices in 2023 compared with 2022. Gasoline prices rose quickly after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the resulting uncertainty in markets for crude oil, natural gas, and petroleum products such as gasoline. Annual average gasoline prices in 2022 were the highest since 2014, when adjusted for inflation.

Most sub-\$3 per gallon values will disappear in the year's first 100 days, though they'll reappear in the fourth quarter as winter grade and lower demand seasonality kicks back in.

As the presidential election looms ahead, analysts expect the Biden administration to keep up its focus on lowering driving fuel costs.

The White House, whether you want to criticize them or not, they're laser focused on gasoline prices. This is a pocketbook issue affecting American's perception of the economy and inflation.

Predictions point to gasoline averaging less than \$3.50 per gallon in 2024, peaking at \$3.75 in late summer around the hurricane season.

The Energy Information Administration forecasts retail gasoline prices will average \$3.36 per gallon in 2024, down from its previous projection of \$3.61.

The agency expects gasoline consumption to decline by 1% this year, as Americans continue to work remotely, fuel efficiency improves, and inflation keeps a lid on consumer spending.

Driving fuel prices ended 2023 near the lows of the year. Retail gasoline last year averaged \$0.43 per gallon less than in 2022, according to EIA data.

Much of the price difference year-over-year had to do with declining oil prices, which slid an average of 10% in 2023.



**The Bureau of Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Division
will be offering the following safety webinars in February 2024:**

	Thursday, February 1		Wednesday, February 21
9:30am	Office Safety	9:30am	Laboratory Safety Standard
11:00am	Electrical Safety	1:30pm	Drug & Alcohol Awareness - Supervisor
1:30pm	Recognizing Employees		
	Friday, February 2		Thursday, February 22
11:00am	Bloodborne Pathogens	9:30am	Workplace Safety Committee Certification Renewal
	Tuesday, February 6	11:00am	Effective Safety Inspection Reports
9:30am	Fire Extinguisher Use	1:30pm	Hot Work Safety
11:00am	Egress & Fire Protection		Monday, February 26
1:30pm	Workplace Safety Committee Certification Renewal	1:30pm	OSHA Injury & Illness Recordkeeping Webinar
	Wednesday, February 7		Tuesday, February 27
9:30am	First Aid Awareness	9:30am	Governor's Award for Safety Excellence - GASE
1:30pm	Kitchen Safety - Burn & Fire Prevention	11:00am	PATHS Overview
	Thursday, February 8	1:30pm	Fall Protection
9:30am	Risk Management		Wednesday, February 28
11:00am	Home Fire Safety	9:30am	Root Cause Analysis
1:30pm	Fire Protection & Prevention - Construction	1:30pm	Right to Know - Chemical
	Tuesday, February 13		Thursday, February 29
9:30am	Patient Handling	9:30am	Opioid Use Disorder
11:00am	Aerial Work Platform & Scissors Lift Safety	11:00am	Workplace Harassment
1:30pm	OVR - Business & Customers with Disabilities	1:30pm	Workplace Safety Committee Certification Initial
	Wednesday, February 14		March 2024
9:30am	Workplace Safety Committee Certification Initial		Tuesday, March 5
1:30pm	Sprains & Strains Safety	9:30am	Excavation & Trenching
	Thursday, February 15	11:00am	Governor's Award for Safety Excellence - GASE
9:30am	Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace	1:30pm	Backyard & Wildlife Safety
11:00am	Ladders		Wednesday, March 6
1:30pm	Eye and Face Protection	9:30am	Machine Guarding
	Tuesday, February 20	1:30pm	Workplace Safety Committee Certification Renewal
9:30am	Stress & Worker Safety		Thursday, March 7
11:00am	Cold Weather Injuries	9:30am	Ergonomics
1:30pm	Lead Awareness & Safety	11:00am	Bloodborne Pathogens
		1:30pm	Hearing Conservation & Noise Control Safety

To register for any of these events just copy and paste the link into your browser and follow the links:
<https://www.dli.pa.gov/Businesses/Compensation/WC/safety/paths/calendar/Pages/default.aspx>

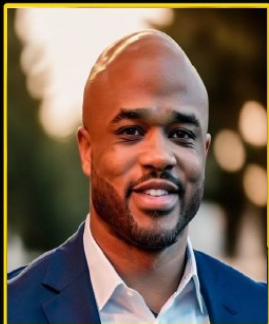
Remember, registration closes the day before the presentation is scheduled to begin.

4,000+ Car Dealerships Ask President Biden To Hit The Breaks On EV's

In November of last year, over 4,000 auto dealers from across the country (including 85 from Pennsylvania) representing every major automotive brand wrote President Biden a letter asking to “tap the brakes” on a proposed government electric vehicle mandate. This request was in response to the Biden administration setting a target for battery electric vehicles, also known as BEVs or EVs, to account for half of all new vehicle sales by 2030.

The joint coalition of car dealers have now come back to President Biden with the following request to “hit the breaks” on a proposed government electric vehicle mandate by pointing out the following facts.

- The number of electric vehicles that qualify for the \$7,500 tax credit in 2024 is less than half the number that qualified in 2023 (only 19 versus 43 last year). New rules disqualify vehicles that rely heavily on components and minerals from China, which currently dominates the supply chain for batteries. The cost premium for electric vehicles is a major factor for consumers, and the loss of these credits is bound to depress consumer demand in 2024 and beyond.
- Despite the \$7.5 billion allocated two years ago to build public electric vehicle charging stations, just three have been opened to date. Range anxiety is a major factor in consumers’ reluctance to buy electric vehicles. Based on the government’s estimates, 2.8 million public chargers will be needed by 2032, but only 170,000 public chargers exist today. That means 800 new chargers would have to be built every single day — for the next nine years. Clearly, this is not even in the realm of possibility.
- Electric vehicles represented just 8% of vehicles sold in 2023. The proposed regulations would require that 60% of vehicles sold in 2030 be battery electric – and two out of every three by 2032. Electric vehicle sales are not remotely on trend to meet those requirements. Indeed, the day supply of electric vehicles on dealer lots today is nearly twice the supply of conventional vehicles.



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**Brinton Executive Center
1051 Brinton Road Suite 304
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
Phone: (412) 241-2380
Email: tammy@prara.com**

Pennsylvania Approved class A & B Operator Training Registration Form

Class Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Time: Registration: 8:30 am
Class: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Location: PRARA Office
Price: \$250 per person (non-member)
\$200 per person (member discount)

****LIMITED SEATING IS AVAILABLE****

Please register early

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number Attending: _____

Price Includes A & B Operator Training Binder, Lunch, and Certificate of Completion

Amount _____ @ _____

Make Check or Money order payable to: PRARA
1051 Brinton Road
Suite 304
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

The Denied Products Do Not Meet the Necessary Public Health Standard and the Manufacturer Must Not Market the Products in the United States. On Jan. 16, FDA issued marketing denial orders (MDOs) to Shenzhen IVPS Technology Co., Ltd for 22 SMOK brand e-cigarette products. The denied products include devices, pods, atomizers, and cartridges, which are part of an e-cigarette system marketed without an e-liquid. The company must not market or distribute these products in the United States or they risk FDA enforcement action.

The products that received an MDO are:

FDA evaluates premarket tobacco product applications (PMTAs) based on a public health standard that considers the risks and benefits of the product to the population as a whole. After reviewing the company's PMTAs, FDA determined that the applications lacked sufficient evidence to demonstrate that permitting marketing of the products would be appropriate for the protection of the public health, which is the standard legally required by the 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. More specifically, the applicant failed to provide sufficient data to characterize constituent delivery, product stability, and product abuse liability.

The denied SMOK e-cigarette products are not sold with an e-liquid. A consumer instead adds their separately purchased e-liquid into the device. Therefore, these SMOK products have the potential to be used with any e-liquid on the market and available to the consumer, which could include tobacco-flavored and non-tobacco flavored e-liquids. According to the 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS), SMOK was the sixth most commonly reported brand among current youth e-cigarette users, with 11.3% of middle and high school students reporting past 30-day use of SMOK products.

"Science is a cornerstone of FDA's tobacco product review process, and CTP remains committed to evaluating ap-

plications based on a public health standard that considers the risks and benefits of the tobacco product to the population as a whole," said Brian King, Ph.D., M.P.H., Director of FDA's Center for Tobacco Products. "It is the applicant's responsibility to provide sufficient scientific evidence to demonstrate that marketing a new tobacco product is appropriate for the protection of the public health. In this case, the applicant failed to provide this evidence."

Following FDA's rigorous scientific review, tobacco products that receive a marketing denial order may not be introduced or delivered for introduction into interstate commerce and, if currently marketed, the products must be removed from the market. Manufacturers, distributors, and retailers who do sell or distribute these products in interstate commerce are violating the law and are at risk of enforcement action. FDA posts the most current information about MDOs, including updates or changes such as a rescission or relevant court order, on the Tobacco Products Marketing Orders webpage. However, the company may submit new applications for the products that are subject to these MDOs.

Today's action is part of FDA's ongoing progress toward making sure that all new tobacco products have undergone science-based review and received marketing authorization by FDA before they can be legally marketed. Since 2020, FDA has received applications for more than 26 million deemed products and has made determinations on 99% of these applications. To date, FDA has authorized 23 tobacco-flavored e-cigarette products and devices. FDA provides this list of e-cigarette products and devices with marketing granted orders (MGOs) so that retailers, consumers, and others may know which products may be legally marketed. FDA has also denied marketing applications for millions of products that did not meet the necessary public health standard required by law.

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or dispatch@bradigans.com

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PRARA 2024 Scholarship Fund

For the thirtieth year, the Petroleum Retailers & Auto Repair Association is sponsoring two \$500 College Scholarships to be awarded to a member’s son or daughter. The applicant must be the child of a current **member** of PRARA and must be graduating from high school in 2024 or are already attending a college, trade school, business school, etc. Applicant **must** be enrolled as a full time student. **Postgraduate students are not eligible.** The student must begin classes within 13 months of the award date.

To be eligible, the member must submit the name, address, and telephone number of the child, along with the name of the high school the applicant will graduate from or the name of the college, trade school, business school, etc. already attending to the Association office. **The application below must be mailed to the PRARA office by June 1.** (The postmark) ***No phone applications will be accepted.***

Every applicant will be given a list of three-digit numbers. The child, who holds the three-digit number corresponding to the Pennsylvania lottery on Monday, June 10 and Tuesday, June 11, will be the winner. Who ever won Monday’s lottery **is not eligible** to win Tuesday’s lottery. The applicant closest to the number on Tuesday’s lottery will be the winner. The winners will be based on the **7:00 pm** drawing for both nights. **Winners of previous scholarships are not eligible to participate.** The PRARA Board of Directors will vote to resolve any disputes.

The scholarship maximum is \$500 each. The check will be made out to the student **and** the school of his/her choice. Proof of registration must be provided before check is issued. The scholarship is not limited to potential college students, but to anyone wanting to further their education, whether it is college, trade school, business school, etc.

PRARA

1051 Brinton Road Suite 304
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
412-241-2380

SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2024 APPLICATION

Member’s Name: _____ Phone: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Applicant’s Name: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Did you or will you graduate this year? _____

High school graduated from: _____

Choice of college, etc. (if known): _____

**All Applications Must Be Completed In Full
And Returned To The PRARA Office By June 1, 2024**

SSDA-AT Legislative Updates

SSDA-AT Supported Death Tax Repeal Act Introduced

Recently, Representatives Randy Feenstra (R-IA) and Sanford Bishop (D-GA) introduced the Death Tax Repeal Act companion bill in the House with over 160 original cosponsors.

This number of original cosponsors already eclipses the total cosponsors from last Congress.

SSDA-AT is looking forward and gearing up for a major tax reform bill next year which will certainly address the estate tax.

SSDA-AT will be continuing to promote both the House and Senate bills in order to build as much momentum as possible moving towards the next tax reform effort in 2025.

SSDA-AT and 157 other groups have already signaled support for the legislation.

Repealing the estate tax remains a top priority for SSDA-AT.

SSDA-AT Sends Letter Supporting Death Tax Repeal Act of 2023

Dear Congressmen Feenstra and Bishop:

SSDA-AT and the undersigned organizations support your bill, the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2023.

We appreciate your work to lead the country towards a commonsense tax code that does not impose a destructive double or triple tax at death. We support full and permanent repeal of the federal estate tax for the following reasons:

Repealing the death tax would spur job creation and grow the economy. Many studies have quantified the potential job growth that would result from estate tax repeal.

Last year the Tax Foundation found that the US could create over 150,000 jobs by repealing the estate tax. A 2012 study by the House Joint Economic Committee found that the death tax has destroyed over \$1.1 trillion of capital in the US economy – loss of small business capital means fewer jobs and lower wages.

Lawrence Summers, former Secretary of the Treasury under President Clinton; Alicia Munell, member of President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisors; Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate for economics; and Douglas Holtz-Eakin, former CBO Director have all published work on the death tax's stifling effect on job growth and the economy as a whole.

The death tax contributes a very small portion of federal revenues. The estate tax currently accounts for approximately one-half of one percent of federal revenue. There is a good argument that not collecting the estate tax would create more economic growth and lead to an increase in federal revenue from other taxes.

A 2016 Tax Foundation analysis found repeal of the death tax would increase federal income taxes by \$145 billion over 10 years using a more realistic, “dynamic” economic analysis. In addition, the death tax forces family businesses to waste money on expensive insurance policies and estate planning.

These burdensome compliance costs make it even harder for business owners to expand their businesses and create more jobs. A super-majority of likely voters support eliminating the death tax. Poll after poll has indicated that a super-majority of likely voters support repealing the estate tax. Typically, two-thirds of likely voters support full and permanent repeal of the death tax. People instinctively feel that the estate tax is not fair.

A 2016 state poll by YouGov conducted in South Dakota showed 75 percent of voters supported repealing the estate tax. The death tax is unfair. It makes no sense to require grieving families to pay a confiscatory tax on their loved one's nest egg.

Far too often this tax is paid by selling family assets like farms and businesses. Other times, employees of the family business must be laid off and payrolls slashed.

No one should be punished for fulfilling the American dream. The negative effects of the estate tax make permanent repeal the only solution for family businesses and farms. Your legislation will help America's family businesses create jobs, expand operations, and grow the economy.

We thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue.

Signed,
SSDA-AT and others

MEMBER TO MEMBER SERVICES

ACCOUNTANTS

J.E. Robinson
Murrysville, PA
412-423-1093

ATM

ATM Cash World
Tom Ranallo
Pittsburgh
800-937-5169

ATTORNEY

Andrew Klaber
Chartwell Law Offices
Sewickley, PA
412-741-0600

CLEANING CHEMICALS

Apter Industries
Rick Gobel-McKeesport, PA
412-672-9628

COMPLIANCE TESTING

Total Tank Works LLC
Sean Tosadori-East Butler
724-285-4258

COMPUTERS

Computer Solutions
Dick Norchi-Allison Park, PA
412-369-8896

CONSULTING

Enviric, Inc.
Victor Unger-Bairdford, PA
724-265-5100

S.I.S.
J.R. Bachor-Tarentum, PA
724-224-1220

ENVIRONMENTAL TANKS & UPGRADES

Groundwater & Environment Svc. Inc.
Jon Agnew
Cranberry Township, PA
800-267-2549 ext. 3636

McRo Construction Inc.
Donald Rothey Jr.
Elizabeth, PA
412-384-6051

S.I.S.
J.R. Bachor-Tarentum, PA
724-224-1220

Total Tank Works LLC
Sean Tosadori-East Butler
724-285-4258

INSURANCE

Bulava & Associates
Joe Bulava-Greensbug, PA
724-836-7610

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Joe Schmidlin-Pittsburgh, PA
412-771-6950
www.oilservice.com

PARTS/PETROLEUM EQUIP

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Center Independent
Doug Friend
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Coen Markets Inc.
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Countywide Petroleum
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Glassmere Fuel Service
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Kehm Oil Company
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412-921-5200

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Elizabeth, PA
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724-279-3360

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Victor Unger-Bairdford, PA
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724-224-1220

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Sean Tosadori-East Butler
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TAXES

J.E. Robinson
Murrysville, PA
412-423-1093

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK/ LINE TESTING

Enviric, Inc.
Victor Unger-Bairdford, PA
724-265-5100

Total Tank Works LLC
Sean Tosadori-East Butler
724-285-4258

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Penn Turf 814-696-7669
Dan’s 724-529-7621
Liberty 888-868-0097

Compliance Bulletin: Annual OSHA Workplace Injury and Illness Posting Begins February 1st

The 2023 posting cycle for OSHA’s workplace injury and illness reporting rule begins on February 1, 2024, and runs through April 30. The OSHA injury and illness recording and posting requirements apply to *most* establishments (workplaces) with more than 10 employees. OSHA requires employers to record and post all work-related injuries occurring during the *previous* calendar year. The following list identifies establishments within the petroleum marketing industry and indicates whether the establishment must comply with the OSHA Injury and Illness recording and posting requirements.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ENTIRE COMPLIANCE BULLETIN](#)

Calendar of Events

National Freedom Day	February 1
Groundhog Day	February 2
Mardi Gras	February 13
Valentine 's Day	February 14
President 's Day	February 19
A&B Operator Training Class	March 20

Business Hours:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	8:30-3:30
Wednesday	8:30-3:30
Thursday	8:30-3:30
Friday	Closed

Contact:

Phone: 412-241-2380

www.prara.com



Petroleum Retailers & Auto Repair Association
1051 Brinton Road Suite 304
Pittsburgh PA 15221

