

PRARA NEWS

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Full page	\$900
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- 2 48" socks
- 8 absorbent pads
- 2 pair gloves
- 2 hazardous waste bags



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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

BY: KEVIN FORSYTHE

Donald Trump Moves To Stop Rising Gas Prices

President Donald Trump announced that he will work with Republican lawmakers in Congress to "substantially" cut taxes on domestic producers of oil and gas, in a move that could increase production and lower consumer costs. He also plans to allow companies to expense 100 percent of investments in new domestic factory construction and other capital spending.

For Trump, who promised to lower the cost of living for American households during his presidential campaign, bringing down the cost of gas at the pump is important to stave off voters' frustration with his handling of the government. According to the latest polls compiled, Trump's rate of approval among U.S. voters has gone from 49.7 percent to 48.7 percent between January 26 and February 19.

Speaking at a conference hosted by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund in Miami, the president said: "As long as you invest in America, build in America, and hire in America, that means that I'm fighting for you."

Trump didn't offer any details on the tax cuts he plans to introduce for domestic oil and gas producers, but he said they will be part of the "largest tax cuts" in American history. These will include tax cuts for families and workers such as no tax on tips, a promise he made during his 2024 presidential campaign, and no tax on Social Security.

He vowed to increase the Strategic Petroleum Reserve's stock, saying: "The world runs on low-cost energy, and energy-producing nations like us have nothing to apologize for. We have more energy than any other nation in the world, and we're going to use it."

Increasing the domestic production of oil and gas in the U.S. could potentially lower costs for Americans as it boosts supply. Price is defined by supply and demand—unless stronger forces like government policies and control outweigh market forces. If the production of oil in the U.S. increases from more drilling and fewer restrictions, it will almost certainly mean a reduction in the cost of oil because the growing supply side of market forces will push prices down. This, in turn, could bring down the price of gas at the pump, as gas prices are largely determined by global crude oil prices.

Oil drillers in the U.S. have so far been cautious about boosting production, saying that global prices do not currently encourage them to do so. And even with increased U.S. production, global market fluctuations could still offset potential domestic benefits. The national average price for a gallon of regular gas in the U.S. was \$3.165, according to AAA, up from \$3.160 a week ago and \$3.125 a month ago. In the most expensive state in the country, California, the average price was \$4.849 a gallon.

Unfortunately for American drivers, gas prices are heading higher as spring approaches. The national average stands at \$3.164/gal, the highest level since mid-October and will likely rise another 15-55 cents over the next 8 weeks. The rise in gas prices is due, in part, to a routine cycle that repeats itself every year in spring, when U.S. refineries undergo maintenance work and unexpected outages normally occur. The U.S. refining capacity has faced significant challenges in recent years. According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), refining capacity in the country dropped in 2021 and 2022 after reaching a peak in 2020. While there were increases in 2023 and 2024, capacity is still below pre-pandemic levels.

Trump is trying to encourage producers to expand the number of refineries in the nation and increase their production, while there may be a desire for more refineries, good luck convincing a refiner that their hay day is still coming... and to invest billions in building new capacity. Limited refining capacity is likely to affect the ability to process additional crude oil into gasoline, potentially limiting supply and keeping oil—and gas—prices elevated.

The spring "seasonal uptick" may lead to a rise in gas prices of 25 to 60 cents a gallon by the peak, which is usually around April 10, no to confuse these increases with those linked to the coming tariffs on oil producers like Canada and Mexico.

The Trump administration recently imposed a 25 percent tariff on imports from Canada and a 10 percent charge on natural gas and oil, which is likely to lead to increased costs for imported energy. These tariffs could counteract the intended effects of tax cuts by raising overall production costs, which could then be passed on to consumers at the pump.

Last but not least, some of the Trump administration's policies—especially widespread tax cuts—are likely to drive up inflation, experts warned. This could erode Americans' purchasing power and lead to increased prices for goods and services, including gas for the time being.



**The Bureau of Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Division
will be offering the following safety webinars in March 2025:**

	Monday, March 3		Tuesday, March 18
9am	Fire Extinguisher Use	9:30am	Wellness Programs
1:30pm	Ladders Webinar	11am	Ergonomics
	Tuesday, March 4	1:30pm	Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
9:30am	Fall Protection		Wednesday, March 19
11am	Hazard Identification	9:30am	Right to Know - Chemical
1:30pm	Workplace Safety Committee Certification Renewal	10am	Active Shooter Training
	Wednesday, March 5	1:30pm	Opioid Use Disorder
9:30am	Walking - Working Surfaces		Thursday, March 20
1:30pm	Slips, Trips & Falls	9:30am	Workplace Safety Committee Certification Renewal
	Thursday, March 6	11am	Bloodborne Pathogens
9:30am	Office Safety	1:30pm	Hazard Communication
11am	Aerial Work Platform & Scissor Lift		Friday, March 21
1:30pm	Stairways & Ladders	9:30am	Mercury Awareness
7		1:30pm	Asbestos Awareness
	Friday, March 7,		Monday, March 24
9:30am	Governor's Award for Safety Excellence - GASE	9:30am	Hearing Conservation & Noise Control
1:30pm	Sleep vs. Fatigue	2pm	Root Cause Analysis
	Monday, March 10		Tuesday, March 25
9am	Active Shooter Awareness	9:30am	Youth in the Workplace Parent's Guide
1:30pm	Dealing with Angry People	11am	Dog & Dog Bites
	Tuesday, March 11	1:30pm	Back Safety & Safe Lifting
9:30am	Workplace Safety Committee Certification Initial		Wednesday, March 26
11am	Emergency Action Plans	9:30am	Electrical Safety
1:30pm	Patient Handling	1:30pm	Cuts, Scrapes & Punctures
	Wednesday, March 12		Thursday, March 27
9:30am	Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	11am	Fire Extinguisher Use
1:30pm	Scaffolds	1:30pm	Workplace Safety Committee Certification Initial
	Thursday, March 13		Friday, March 28
9:30am	Head Protection	9:30am	Sprains & Strains
11am	Job Safety Analysis	2pm	Incident Investigations
1:30pm	Distracted Driving		Monday, March 31
	Friday, March 14	9:30am	Safety Incentive Programs
9:30am	Eye and Face Protection	1:30pm	Respiratory Protection
1:30pm	Groundskeeping Safety		
	Monday, March 17		
9am	Drug & Alcohol Awareness -Employee		
1:30pm	Walkthrough Surveys		

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.





PETROLEUM RETAILERS AND AUTO REPAIR ASSOCIATION, INC.

**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, April 16, 2025
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)
Payments are due by April 9, 2025

****Non-refundable payments are required for reservations****

****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

PRARA 2025 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 2025 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 9 and Tuesday, June 10, 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 2025 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, 2025**

SSDA-AT Legislative Updates

SSDA-AT Signs CTA Joint Trades Letter

SSDA-AT along with 120 trade associations called on the Treasury Department to offer Main Street some relief and certainty by delaying the CTA through at least the end of this year. The letter reads:

Dear Secretary Bessent:

SSDA-AT and the undersigned organizations, representing millions of Main Street businesses operating in every industry and community in America, applaud the Department for its swift action in pausing the Corporate Transparency Act's (CTA) reporting requirements while a nationwide court order remains in place, and respectfully ask that you strengthen this action by administratively extending the CTA filing deadline until January 1, 2026.

The CTA was designed to help law enforcement prevent money laundering by requiring shell companies to report and regularly update information regarding their beneficial owners (BOI) to Treasury. The law's definition of a shell company, however, is ridiculously broad. By FinCEN's own estimates, it initially covers 32 million legal entities with 20 or fewer employees or \$5 million or less in revenues – in other words, nearly every small business in the United States.

Despite its unprecedented scope, the CTA will be of little practical use to law enforcement, as criminals are unlikely to self-report their information to FinCEN. The brunt of its reporting burdens and excessive penalties will be shouldered by law-abiding Main Street businesses instead.

Lack of awareness of the CTA's reporting requirements has not helped. Despite massive public awareness campaigns by the groups represented here, as of December 1, 2024 – just one month before a year-end deadline – FinCEN had received less than 30 percent of the required filings. Had the courts not intervened, tens of millions of business owners would have been out of compliance and at risk of felony prosecutions.

The myriad of legal challenges and court rulings has added to the confusion. A nationwide injunction issued against the CTA in December was subsequently overturned, reimplemented, and overturned again, all in a matter of weeks. An Alabama court ruling that found the CTA unconstitutional is still pending appeal in the Fifth Circuit, while at least ten other legal challenges are still waiting to be heard.

Still another nationwide order to pause mandatory filing – issued by the District Court for the Eastern District of Texas in the case of *Smith v Treasury* – remains in place. While we appreciate FinCEN's decision to respect that order and pause the collection of BOI, the relief provided through that regulatory action is contingent upon the order remaining in place.

Small businesses find themselves in the position where they are currently under no obligation to file, but a single court ruling could force them to comply with this burdensome and costly statute in short order.

Given the volatile legal landscape and the vast number of businesses targeted by the CTA's unprecedented reporting mandates, we urge the Administration to issue new guidance to delay filing until the end of the year and ensure the courts have time to make a final determination regarding the CTA's constitutionality.

The undersigned organizations are grateful for your efforts and strongly support the actions outlined above.

Sincerely,

SSDA-AT and other trade associations

SSDA-AT Legislative Updates

Corporate Transparency Act - Deadlines Reinstated

The nationwide injunction prohibiting enforcement of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) has been stayed; meaning, FinCEN will resume enforcement of the required beneficial ownership information (BOI) filings. Simply put, the CTA filing requirements are reinstated. FinCEN has issued a notice that reset the filing deadline for most companies to **March 21, 2025**.

See notice here: [FinCEN Notice, FIN-2025-CTA1, 2/18/2025](#).

As a reminder, the Corporate Transparency Act requires most small businesses in the United States to make a filing with FinCEN (see here: <https://boiefiling.fincen.gov/>).

Each required entity must file a report containing the following information about the company:

Entity's full legal name

Trade names

A complete current address

The jurisdiction it was formed in or jurisdiction in which a foreign company first registers

Internal Revenue Service Taxpayer Identification Number and Employer Identification Number

Information about each beneficial owner of the company, including this about each person:

Full legal name

Date of birth

Current business or residential address

A unique identifying number from an acceptable identification document (i.e., passport, driver's license, etc.)

So that's the bad news – the CTA is back in effect.

What's the silver lining? Several opportunities for success remain. First, bipartisan legislation recently passed the House that would delay filing until the end of the year. A companion bill has been introduced in the Senate by Banking Chair Tim Scott. This legislation is unlikely to move forward on its own, but it could catch a ride on a must-pass bill like the upcoming CR. This ruling could be the catalyst to get that done.

Second, the following statement from FinCEN also opens the door for further administrative relief:

Notably, in keeping with Treasury's commitment to reducing regulatory burden on businesses, during this 30-day period FinCEN will assess its options to further modify deadlines, while prioritizing reporting for those entities that pose the most significant national security risks. FinCEN also intends to initiate a process this year to revise the BOI reporting rule to reduce burden for lower-risk entities, including many U.S. small businesses.

What exactly they have in mind is unclear, but both the 30-day grace period and the recognition that the current CTA rules overreach is a massive step forward and a signal that the new Administration intends to take a more business-friendly approach to the CTA. Is a further filing deadline delay part under consideration?

Finally, yesterday's ruling is not the final say in the courts either. By our count, there are *eleven* challenges to the CTA pending in federal courts and the lead case – *NSBA v. Treasury* – is awaiting a decision by the Eleventh Circuit any day now. We have a good chance to win that decision but the case is all but guaranteed to end up before the Supreme Court this year either way.

So the courts might save us from this poorly-conceived law in the end, but in the meantime we need help from the Administration. Vice President Vance and Secretary McMahon have already weighed in against the CTA. The court ruling means it's time for our friends at Treasury to do the same in a meaningful way.

MEMBER TO MEMBER SERVICES

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412-423-1093

ATM

ATM Cash World
Tom Ranallo
Pittsburgh
800-937-5169

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Chartwell Law Offices
Sewickley, PA
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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

ENVIRONMENTAL TANKS & UPGRADES

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Donald Rothey Jr.
Elizabeth, PA
412-384-6051

Total Tank Works LLC
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724-285-4258

INSURANCE

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

LUBRICANTS AND ANTIFREEZE

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

PARTS/PETROLEUM EQUIP

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

Congressman Lloyd Smucker Introduces Legislation to Make 199A Tax Deduction Permanent

A senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, U.S. Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA), has recently introduced federal legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, seeking a permanent extension for Section 199A of the Internal Revenue Code. Initially part of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Section 199A is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2025. It was designed with the goal of promoting equity between small businesses and large corporations, allowing a 20 percent deduction of pass-through income for small entities like sole proprietorships, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, or estates. It also permits deductions on income from qualified real estate investment trust dividends or publicly traded partnerships.

The Energy Marketers of America and 230 other business groups support the legislation and recently sent the following letter to Senator Steve Daines (R-MT) and Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-Pa.), the lead sponsors of the Senate and House Main Street Tax Certainty Act of 2025.

Rep. Smucker believes that when small businesses thrive, communities thrive. He argues that the permanency of Section 199A is crucial for small businesses to have the certainty they need for investing in their workforce, operations, and community. He emphasizes that this pro-growth policy ensures that small businesses can maintain tax equality with larger corporations.

According to a study by Ernst and Young, the Section 199A deduction benefits 2.6 million jobs. The proposed legislation, known as the Main Street Tax Certainty Act, has bipartisan backing and is co-sponsored by 152 members of the House of Representatives. It also garners support from over 230 organizations. A roundtable discussion was held last year by Rep. Smucker with businesses in his district regarding Section 199A.



"Spring is proof that there is beauty in new beginnings."

- Matshona Dhlwayo

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412-423-1093

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

USED TIRE PICKUP

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Dan's 724-529-7621
Liberty 888-868-0097



Calendar of Events

Mardi Gras	March 4
Ash Wednesday	March 5
Daylight Saving Time Begins	March 9
St. Patrick 's Day	March 17
First Day of Spring	March 20
National Vietnam War Veterans' Day	March 29
A&B Operator Training Class	April 16

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
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