



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE



## News From VPCGA at the General Assembly

March 1, 2010

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Dear Member,

### Industry Issues at Forefront of General Assembly Budget Deliberations

#### Motor Fuel Allowance

With less than two weeks remaining in the 2010 Virginia General Assembly session, the fate of two major issues impacting VPCGA members remains undecided. As we reported to you last week the House and Senate have taken different positions on the 1% motor fuel allowance- the House favoring its repeal and the Senate supporting our position. On Thursday, each branch approved their version of the budget – making the allowance issue one that will need to be negotiated by a House Senate Conference committee. Over the past week members of the House conference committee have been receiving numerous communications from our members, asking that they support restoring the allowance. We have followed up with each member as well. Our ability to keep the allowance will be directly related to your willingness to contact members of the conference committee if you live or have business interests in their districts. The following are members of the House conference committee along with contact information. [Click here](#) for a briefing paper which we have used in member communications to the conferees and [click here](#) for a section of the DMV's website that demonstrates that an undue burden will be imposed on the petroleum industry if the allowance is repealed.

Lacy Putney - Bedford (804) 698-1019  
 Kirk Cox - Colonial Heights (804) 698-1066  
 Beverly Sherwood - Winchester (804) 698-1029  
 Stephen Landes - Augusta (804) 698-1025  
 Chris Jones - Suffolk (804) 698-1076  
 Johnny Joannou - Portsmouth (804) 698-1079

## **Weights and Measures**

Last week the House Agriculture Committee advanced Senate legislation to significantly change the state's weights and measures program. Under the legislation, which we support, the state petroleum storage tank fee would be increased from 6 tenths to 7 tenths per gallon with the proceeds dedicated to annual inspections of petroleum devices and dispensers. Any excess revenue would revert to the state fund. This issue is likely to receive a significant amount of discussion in the coming days. To date, the House has resisted any efforts to raise fees to close the budget deficit. However, the Senate has already added the new weights and measures language to their budget. Governor McDonnell has stated that he may support some fee increases provided that there is a direct relation between the fee and the service.

### **VPCGA Reception Wednesday in Myrtle Beach**

For those of you attending the SE Petro Food Expo this week in Myrtle Beach, don't forget that VPCGA, through the generosity of our industry partners, will hold a reception on Wednesday at our hospitality suite in the Sheraton Hotel at 5pm after the show ends. It is room #303, the McNair Suite. We hope to see you there.