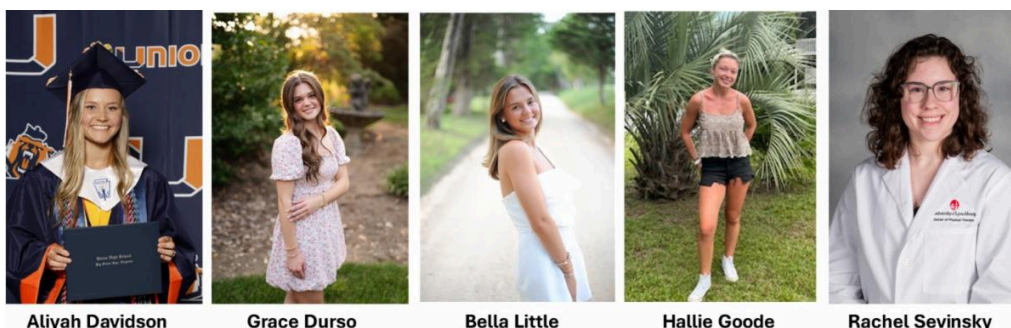




July 31, 2025



Aliyah Davidson

Grace Durso

Bella Little

Hallie Goode

Rachel Sevinsky

2025 VPCMA Scholarship Recipients Announced

The VPCMA Scholarship Committee has announced the recipients of the 2025 scholarship program. Since establishment in 1992, the program has assisted more than 200 deserving students from across Virginia. This year's recipients are: **Aliyah Davidson**, incoming student at Bluefield University, daughter of Christa Davidson of Riggs Oil, Big Stone Gap; **Grace Durso**, incoming student at Liberty University, daughter of Frank Durso of Tiger Fuel, Charlottesville; **Bella Little**, incoming student at Georgetown University, daughter of Lloyd and Tracy Little of JRP Energy, Ashland; **Hallie Goode**, student at Piedmont Virginia CC, daughter of Pam Goode of Tiger Fuel, Charlottesville; and **Rachel Sevinsky**, student at University of Lynchburg DPT, daughter of Thomas Sevinsky of Holtzman Oil, Afton. Congratulations to all!

Minimum Wage to Rise 2.9% Effective January 1, 2026

Under state law, changes in Virginia's minimum wage are tied to increases in the Consumer Price Index, the same methodology which is used each July to calculate gasoline and diesel taxes. The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry has published the new minimum wage that will take effect **January 1, 2026**. The new minimum wage is calculated by multiplying the current wage by the U.S. Consumer Price Index for the last 12 months.

Virginia's present minimum wage \$12.41 per hour x .029= **\$12.77 minimum wage that will take effect January 1, 2026.**

Further information may be [found here](#).

EMA Urges PHMSA to Advance Key Regulatory Reforms to Ease Compliance Burdens on Energy Marketers

From EMA

The Energy Marketers of America (EMA) this week submitted comments to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) in response to its solicitation for stakeholder feedback on reducing regulatory burdens related to the transportation of domestic energy resources, including motor fuels and heating oil. EMA praised PHMSA's efforts to explore deregulatory options that could alleviate pressures on the supply chain for essential liquid fuels and help curb inflationary impacts on consumers.

EMA highlighted three critical areas for reform within the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMRs) to lessen compliance burdens on small businesses in the downstream energy sector: (1) cargo tank testing requirements, (2) placarding rules, and (3) hazardous materials registration fees.

Reinstating Flexible Cargo Tank Vapor Testing to Restore Efficiencies

PHMSA has historically permitted fuel marketers to conduct leakage tests on cargo tanks using practical methods, such as through vapor recovery systems without full tank pressurization or via a pressure-drop test aligned with EPA vapor tightness certifications under the Clean Air Act. These options have allowed operators to select safe, cost-effective testing based on equipment and needs, minimizing stress on older tanks and reducing service disruptions.

However, the Biden Administration's 2023 amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for gasoline distribution introduced stricter pressure-drop limits-reducing allowable drops to 0.5 inches over five minutes for most marketers. This change has increased testing complexities, disrupted established protocols, and imposed additional burdens without sufficient coordination between PHMSA and the EPA.

EMA calls for enhanced inter-agency collaboration to reinstate flexible leak testing via a reasonable, three-inch pressure-drop test. Restoring a proven, safe compliance cargo tank vapor testing framework that supports small businesses in delivering reliable fuel supplies is a priority for EMA.

Expanding Lowest Flash Point Exception for Placarding in Split and Alternating Loads

In response to PHMSA's proposed amendments to cargo tank placarding for petroleum distillate fuels, EMA continues to advocate for the use of the UN ID number for the lowest flash point fuel in split loads and alternating straight loads of gasoline, diesel, heating oil, and E10 blends. EMA further urges extending this flexibility to E15 blends, especially when transported with lower-ethanol fuels. Applying the lowest flash point placard for multiple fuels across the same day or previous business day aligns with regulatory intent and enhances operational efficiency without sacrificing safety. Current limitations force inefficient practices, such as load sequencing or running partial shipments, which drive up costs for energy marketers.

Adopting a Risk-Based Approach to Hazardous Materials Registration Fees

PHMSA's proposed fee hikes for small business registrants funding the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grants program disproportionately affect fuel marketers in a competitive, low-margin industry.

While PHMSA recognizes the need to account for risk differences between large and small entities, the uniform inflation-based increases overlook the varying hazards of transported materials.

EMA advocates for a revised fee structure that incorporates both business size and risk profiles of transported materials. High-risk substances like toxic inhalants or radioactive materials warrant higher fees, whereas lower-risk fuels like diesel and gasoline handled by small marketers should face reduced burdens. This targeted, tiered approach would promote fairness, efficiency, and alignment with legislative goals, easing strains on the fuel and heating oil sectors.

"These reforms are essential to supporting small energy marketers who keep America's vehicles running and homes heated," said EMA President Rob Underwood. "By reducing unnecessary regulatory hurdles, PHMSA can help prevent supply disruptions, lower costs for consumers, and foster a more resilient energy supply chain."

[Click here](#) to read the letter.

Register For the VPCMA 77th Annual Meeting Today

Three weeks remain before our room block expires at the Williamsburg Lodge. Please make plans to attend the Associations Annual Meeting September 28-30. This marks the first time in eight years that we be in Colonial Williamsburg, which has historically been one of our most popular destinations. We have planned three days full of education and networking with industry colleagues, with maybe a surprise guest or two thrown in. Please see links below for more details and register today.

[Annual Meeting Promo](#)

[VPCMA Registration](#)

[Williamsburg Room Reservations](#)

Sincerely,

Mike O'Connor
President, VPCMA





VPCMA | 7275 Glen Forest Drive Suite 204 | Richmond, VA 23226 US

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