



May 18, 2026

EMA Washington Conference

Last week we attended the Energy Marketers of America's annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill. We held meetings with four congressional offices and met personally with Congressmen Ben Cline and John McGuire. Much of our discussions focused on the current price spike and a proposal by some to suspend the federal gas tax. This also led to discussions on how this has impacted marketers relative to credit card fees and the windfall profits being gifted to the banks and credit card issuers, courtesy of the increased cost of crude.

Also during the meeting, we received a briefing from the Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association relative to a serious situation which may soon impact the availability of lubricants and industrial formulations across the board. This situation has been largely attributed to the war in Iran, constrained Korean refining, and refining economics driving production of diesel as opposed to lubricants.

According to ILMA, analysts do not expect Group III or Group II refining economics to be fully normalized until at least 2027. In the meantime they expect the following impacts - higher prices so long as supply in the mid-east is interrupted, and possible substitution of products. The ILMA has provided this [issue brief](#) for additional information on lubricant availability.

We hope you mark your calendars for May 12-14 for the 2027 EMA Washington Conference and Day on the Hill.

Pictured below L to R: Elizabeth McCormick, Phillips Energy; Elizabeth Zyglocke, VPCMA; Congressman Ben Cline; Rieman Claytor, H.N. Funkhouser; Bob Brady, Capitol Petroleum.



Save the Date

VPCMA 78th Annual Meeting
September 20-22, 2026
The Greenbrier Resort
White Sulphur Springs, WV

Details available in June.

Sincerely,

Mike O'Connor
President, VPCMA



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