



November 20, 2020

TCI Scrutiny Intensifies

It was not a good week for those that support the rationing, redistribution and prohibition scheme also known as the Transportation Climate Initiative. First, the Governor of Massachusetts, Charlie Baker, who has been one of the programs biggest cheerleaders, announced that he was revisiting his support, citing the pandemic and its impact on mobility and significant declines in fossil fuel use. Also this week former Speaker Bill Howell of Stafford authored an op-ed in the Richmond Times Dispatch which identified the specific problems TCI would cause particularly to future transportation funding in the Commonwealth.

Speaker Howell's column can be found here:

https://richmond.com/opinion/columnists/william-j-howell-column-virginia-cannot-afford-the-transportation-and-climate-initiative/article_094b8f90-14e5-528f-8cfd-2ee114b8fbfc.html

The perspective on TCI from a leading Virginia think tank can be found here:

<https://www.baconsrebellion.com/wp/one-governor-blinks-on-carbon-tax-will-northam/>

COVID-19 Discount For Logo Sign Fees

We have participated as a member of the Statewide Directional Sign Advisory committee for the past 15 years. This panel meets twice annually to review activities surrounding the states' blue logo sign program, tourist signs, historical markers and the like. At last week's meeting we learned that the state will be providing a one-time COVID-19 related discount on invoices that will go out prior to the end of the year. This will be an approximate 27 percent reduction, meaning that 2021 sign fees for high volume locations will be \$725, down from \$1,000 and regular volume locations will be \$580, down from \$800.

To view a powerpoint of the last meeting, [click here](#).

SE Petro Food Expo Moves to May 20-21

The dates for the 2021 edition of the SE Petro Food Expo have been moved to May 20-21. This show is co-sponsored by VPCMA and our counterpart associations in North and South Carolina. We are pleased to report that the headquarters hotel, the Sheraton, will be

honoring the special \$135 room rate offered for the March show dates. You can go to www.sepetro.org to register, reserve a room or an exhibit space. While the dates have moved, those participating in the show will be required to comply with all Covid-19 protocols to participate.

HAZMAT Training

During the last several years we have been providing live HAZMAT training in several locations across the State of Virginia. With the current Covid-19 situation we have been unable to hold live classes to renew the three year re-training obligation or to train new employees. We have a solution for you to consider that can be paid for by using NORA educational funds.

Using the J J Keller & Associates On-Demand video series, we can provide the general training that is required of all companies. These videos can be watched by each employee at home or in the office on almost any computer or tablet. All you have to do is provide the name of each employee to be trained on a specific topic. We will provide a unique password for them and they can go online and take the course, take a test at the end and print their certificate of completion. They will have 90 days to take and pass the course and you will be advised when they have completed the course or that they have not. This video streaming will meet most of the DOT requirements except Security and Job Procedures that are specific to your company. You will still need to provide the training on those items particularly on internal security plans.

J J Keller will keep a record of attendance and all the tests they take. If you are interested in taking advantage of this new member service Please respond to Rob Bailey by email at rob@vpcma.com or text/phone to 804-873-1900. The more people that utilize the program, the lower the price will be for each video NORA pays for in the series. Your prompt response to Rob will be appreciated.

Federated Insurance Appoints New CEO and COO

In a significant step forward in planned efforts to develop and install the next generation of strong executive leadership at Federated Insurance, Chairman and CEO Jeff Fetters has announced that Michael G. Kerr has been appointed the organization's President and Chief Executive Officer, and Nicholas R. Lower its Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer. These leadership changes will be effective January 1, 2021, at which time Fetters will voluntarily relinquish his role as CEO while retaining his duties and responsibilities as Chairman of the Federated Mutual Insurance Companies.