



Multi-State Meeting - Summer 2017

National Issues

Craft Beverage Modernization Tax Reform Act (CMBTRA): GPI and its member companies are strongly advocating for passage of S. 236 and H.R. 747, the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act of 2017. CMBTRA provides a more fair, equitable and comprehensive tax structure for brewers, beer importers, along with producers of distilled spirits and wine. ***S. 236 currently has 46 Senate co-sponsors, and H.R. 747 has over half of the House of Representatives supporting, with 252 co-sponsors.***

Soda Ash Royalty Reduction: GPI supports a temporary reduction in the royalty rate paid by our soda ash partners (S. 567 and H.R. 747). These bills would temporarily reduce the federal royalty rate paid for soda ash mined on federal land from 6% to 2% for 5 years. This will help domestic soda ash producers more fairly compete with Chinese soda ash producers, who are provided a 9% rebate, equating to roughly \$35 million in annual subsidies. ***H.R. 747 was passed by the House Committee on Natural Resources earlier this year, and is supported by the USW.***

ACA Excise Tax: GPI strongly opposes the “Cadillac Tax”, scheduled to be issued on health insurance plans valued over \$27,500 annually. Companies should not be punished for providing quality healthcare benefits programs for the glass container workforce and their families. ***Implementation has been delayed until 2020 - GPI supports ongoing Congressional efforts to permanently repeal this tax, and is engaging with the USW on this issue.***

Escalating Pension Premiums: Congress has increased employer payments to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. (PBGC) twice over the past two years, at a cost to employers of several billion dollars to employers. These increases are used to assist in balancing the federal budget, and are unrelated to pension solvency. ***GPI supports Congressional efforts to prevent PBGC funds from being used as a “pay-for”, and is engaging with the USW on this issue.***

Ozone Standards: GPI and its members support H.R. 806 and S. 263, which would delay the 2015-issued lowered ozone standards. The 2015 ozone designations would place hundreds of additional US counties into “non-attainment” zones, potentially limiting manufacturing production and providing minimal environmental benefit. ***H.R. 806 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 229-199, and is awaiting further action in the Senate.***

Measuring Recycling: GPI and members support weight-based recycling measurement, and are engaged with the EPA and stakeholders across the country to ensure that the GHG benefits of using recycled glass are not minimized when compared to competitive packaging.

Workforce Development: The glass industry is working with state agencies, community colleges, manufacturers and lawmakers to make sure grant and training programs meet our requirements and needs.