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October 31, 2013

The Honorable Richard L. Hanna
U.S. House of Representatives
319 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Rice, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
325 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Michaud
U.S. House of Representatives
1724 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Hanna, Rice and Michaud:

The Petroleum Marketers Association of America (PMAA) and the New England Fuel Institute (NEFI) write to commend you for the introduction of the bipartisan “True Understanding of the Economy and Safety Act” or simply “TRUE Safety Act” (H.R.3413). Our organizations strongly support your efforts to secure a much needed delay of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s (FMCSA) new Hours-of-Service 34-hour restart provision.

PMAA is a national federation of 48 state and regional trade associations representing over 8,000 independent petroleum marketers. These companies own 60,000 convenience store/gasoline stations and supply motor fuels such as gasoline and diesel fuel to an additional 40,000 stores. NEFI is nation’s largest independent home heating oil trade association, representing more than 1,000 home heating oil, kerosene and propane dealers and related services companies. Together, NEFI and PMAA members provide nearly all the gasoline, diesel fuel and heating oil sold to U.S. consumers.

Our members share concerns raised by other transportation groups regarding the potential impact of the new Hours of Service rule on U.S. businesses, employees and consumers. The new 34-hour restart provision includes requirements that will complicate the ability of our members to respond to emergency fuel outages or to service or repair home heating systems. In order to comply with the rule, many small heating fuel dealers may be forced to hire additional drivers - increasing operating costs for their businesses and, as a result, the cost of product for their consumers.

We believe the FMCSA may not have fully considered the impact of the new Hours-of-Service rule on our industry and home heating consumers in the Northeast. H.R.3413 is vital in ensuring that these concerns are adequately considered and fully addressed by federal regulators.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Dan Gilligan
President, PMAA

Michael C. Trunzo
President & CEO, NEFI