

# NOZZLE & WRENCH

WMDACAR

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## KIRK'S CORNER

# March Legislative Madness



By Kirk McCauley, Director  
Of Member Relations &  
Government Affairs

**This month I have listed bills** by what members would be affected. You might be surprised, looking at the title is not always the whole story.

### Repair Facilities

#### **HB0843 Consumer Protection – Motor vehicles – Right to Repair –**

Sponsor Delegate Hornberger, and I for WMDA/CAR were only testimony in favor, Dealer and Manufacturer lobbyist both testified against bill. Dealerships and manufacturers put out a ton of money through PACs to stop bills like this and it will take everyone on board to move the bill through committees.

#### **SB0742 Vehicle Laws – Inspection Requirement –**

Maryland inspection bill for biannual inspection of motor vehicles. Vehicles need to be inspected every 2 years after 6 years old. WMDA/CAR recommended it goes to study. No info in bill as far inspection test, type of license, cost, leaves it up ASED to decide all these questions. Lobbyist/attorney for dealership contacted WMDA/CAR before bill was dropped in Annapolis. I circulated amongst our car committee and the feelings were not enough information.

Dealerships hired an Annapolis attorney/Lobbyist to guide this bill through legislation. I do not think the bill will move and I hope they will send it to study if it does. I will keep an eye on it . Here is a link to Fiscal notes that are interesting.

[Fiscal and Policy Note](#)

### Repair Facility, Fueling and Convenience Stores

#### **SB0355 Family and Medical Leave insurance Program – Delay of**

**Implementation** Would delay start of Family and Sick leave 2 years, Department of Labor also said they were in favor of delay and would also introduce a bill. This bill would start collections in July of 2027 and could begin being used July of 2028.

The Maryland Department of Labor then came out and proposed delaying Family Leave for 18 months although we have not seen a bill to this effect. Language could be put in budget bill to that effect or added to a bill as amendment. I suspect we will get 18 months delay. Secretary at MDL did not make that proposal without the Governors input.

**HB1096/SB0938 Fraud Prevention and Worker Protections – Prohibitions, Penalties, and Enforcement.** This bill as written, would allow Office of Attorney General to investigate a workplace without complaint, audit employment records, payroll, interview employees and check classification of each employee. WMDA/CAR and colleagues had a meeting with AG office and are working on removing language.



*Continues on page 4*

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## 2025 CALENDAR

**FEB. 4 - APR. 8** LEGISLATIVE TUESDAYS – via Zoom (*Link will be sent separately*)  
**APRIL 9** GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING at Nautilus Diner, Crofton, MD  
**JUNE 10** 7TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING at Renditions  
**SEPT. 29** MAFCAS 2025 at Maryland Live

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*Continued from cover*

[HB0113/SB0584](#) **Civil Action-Noneconomic Damages or Wrongful Death.** This would drive liability and business insurance up along with health insurance costs. This is attorneys bill and would be very costly to all our members.

[HB1400/SB0823](#) **No Tax on Tips Act-** Would also raise minimum wage to \$20.00 hour in steps and have a consumer price index attached to it.

These types of wage gains tend to raise all salaries, even the ones already making \$20 an hour. Salaries should be made by merit and competition, not by the government.

[HB1554/SB1045](#) **Sales and Use Tax – Taxable Business Services – Alterations**

Hearing for HB1400 scheduled in the House Ways & Means Committee on 3/12. Hearing for SB1045 scheduled in the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee on 3/12.

Creates 2.5% sales and use tax on business to business transactions for a large amount of professional services. Tax of 2.5% of labor working on another business's vehicles would put tax on delivery portion of tanker load of gas if delivery listed separately, fee you pay to anyone else that is in business. Business to Business tax.

[HB0029/SB0917](#) **Electronic Payment Transactions – Interchange Fees – Calculation and Use of Data** SB917 received unfavorable vote in Finance and was withdrawn, I don't see Economic Matters even voting. The bill would allow a merchant to request a bank or credit card processor to exempt the amount of sales tax in an electronic payment transaction from the amount on which an interchange fee is charged. An "interchange fee" – commonly known as a swipe fee – is the fee charged by a bank or credit card processor for its involvement in the payment process.

## **Service Stations / Convenience Stores**

[HB0232/SB0346](#) Bottle recycling bill that would have stores putting reverse vending machines in stores, consumers would put an empty bottle in machine and ticket would come out, that you could redeem at POS. Picture consumer dragging in bag if bottles, entering in machine one after the other, taking up space and dripping all over and they might not have even been sold by you. We are not against recycling but dragging bags of bottles into store is not good.

[SB0842/ HB1241](#) **Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices – Wholesaler Licensure Requirements.** Bill that would allow warrantless searches and seizure of products from OTP sellers. WMDA/CAR is in talks with sponsors to come to agreement.

[SB0149/HB0128](#) **Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025** Establishes a program through which companies that extracted fossil fuels and refined crude oil would be fined for historical greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

[HB1469](#) **Taxes – Sugary Beverage Distributor Tax** Creates a "sugary beverage tax" paid by distributors on beverages that contain added sugars. The tax would be 2-cents per ounce. Natural fruit & vegetable juices and milk would not be subject to the tax. Would add \$5.76 to a case of sodas or 40 cents to a 20oz pop.

[HB1484/SB0978](#) **Environmental Permits - Requirements for Public Participation and Impact and Burden Analysis** Requires the Department of the Environment or other permitting agency to produce an "existing burden

report" for certain covered projects. Covered projects include a "fossil fuel shipment, handling, or processing facility." If a covered project is approved, the permit holder must pay a fee into a "project-specific cumulative impacts mitigation fund for the life of the project. As the title says, this bill also requires public participation.

[HB0618](#) **State Lottery – Internet Sales of Subscription Plans – Authorization** We have been engaged with Lottery over aspects of this bill and hopefully, we can come to an agreement.

[HB0539/SB0850](#) **State Lottery – Ticket Purchase and Delivery by Third-Party Entity – Authorization** – Just what it sounds like, hiring a vendor to sell and deliver via electric means. No room for negotiation on this bill, we will try to kill it.

WMDA/CAR tracks over fifty bills House and Senate. Maryland is looking for bills to bring in money and to delay programs to save money. Both house and senate took the governor's education delays out of budget bill [SB0321/HB0352](#) and are looking for money by delaying family leave and delaying Advance Clean Cars II program.

On the Flip side the "Sugar Bill" raises hundreds of million a year and so does Business to Business tax. Do they want both or just one? What is the House speaker's and Senate President's plan? We will find out in less than 30 days.

WMDA/CAR General Membership Meeting is April 9th the day after session is over and you will get full run down and a Free Breakfast. In the meantime, if you have any questions give me a call, or jump on Legislative Tuesday and ask away. If there is a bill, I did not highlight that you are interested in, call me, we are working a lot of bills not listed. ✨



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**WMDACAR**  
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**OUTING**

**TUES., JUNE 10, 2025**

RENDITIONS GOLF COURSE  
 DAVIDSONVILLE, MD



- 7:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start (4-Man Scramble Format)**
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch with Contest Prize Distribution**

**\$169 per Golfer/\$650 for Foursome**

Price includes Greens Fee, Cart fee, bag drop, Breakfast and Buffet Lunch. Each Golfer will get two Drink tickets redeemable for Alcoholic/ Non-Alcoholic Beverages at the Beverage cart. Refreshments will be available on the course. WMDA/CAR will assist in pairing individual registered golfers to make a foursome if requested.

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**Golfer #3:** \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Golfer #4:** \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please assist in making a foursome if less than 4 golfers listed above.

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Golfers x \$169 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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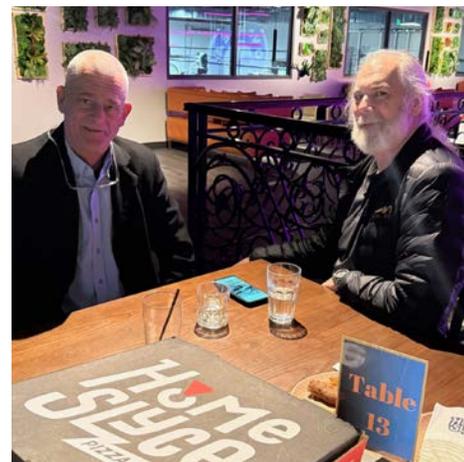
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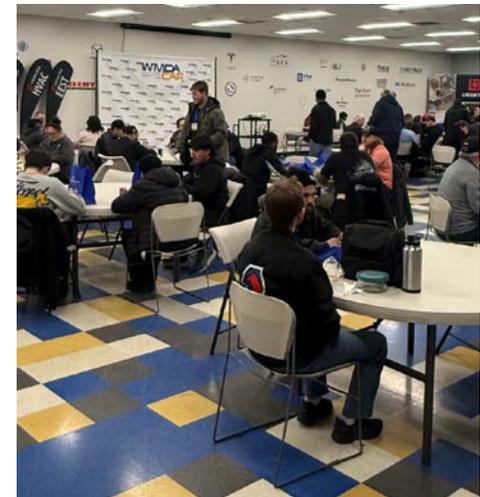
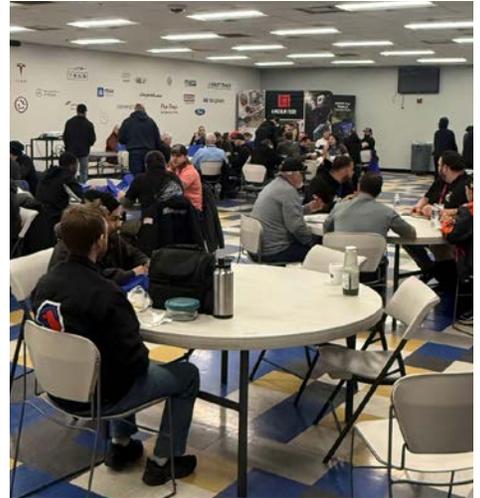
# TRAINING DAY

FEBRUARY 22, 2025

## PRE-EVENT HAPPY HOUR



# TRAINING DAY



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# Are You Appreciating Your Depreciation?

Brought to you by Tim Jancius, [Spigler Petroleum Equipment, LLC](#)

**As tax season rolls in, many business owners are realizing** they may have missed valuable opportunities to reduce their tax burden last year. If you didn't take full advantage of Maryland's depreciation tax laws in 2024, you're likely feeling it now. The good news? It's not too late to plan ahead and position your business for success in 2025.

Maryland small business owners can benefit from Section 179 deductions and bonus depreciation, allowing significant write-offs on new equipment purchases. By upgrading now, you're not just enhancing your operations—you're also setting yourself up for valuable tax savings when next year's filing season rolls around.

## Why Upgrade in 2025?

Investing in new technology isn't just about compliance—it's about efficiency, security, and long-term growth. Here are some smart upgrades to consider:

- **Tank Monitor Systems – Veeder-Root TLS 450 Plus**

With the TLS 350 officially end-of-life, rebuilt parts will become harder and more expensive to obtain, leading to costly repair bills. Upgrading now ensures reliable operation, remote monitoring, and advanced compliance features to protect your business.

- **Gilbarco Flex VI Dispensers**

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- **Gilbarco Passport PX68**

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- **Self-Checkout Systems**

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- **Food Ordering Systems**

Looking to expand your business? Adding a food ordering system can help increase revenue and improve customer experience.

- **EV Chargers**

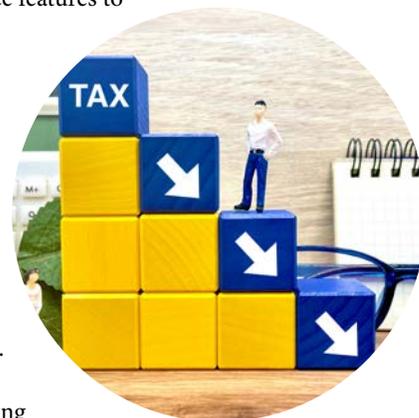
With more government funding and tax incentives available for EV infrastructure, installing chargers now could mean big savings and increased foot traffic to your location.

## Don't Wait Until It's Too Late

Many business owners only think about tax savings when it's time to file—by then, it's too late to make impactful changes. Investing in your business now means more than just better technology; it means bigger tax advantages and stronger financial positioning for 2025.

Give us a call today for a free estimate and let's discuss how we can help build your future. ■

*Maryland small business owners can benefit from Section 179 deductions and bonus depreciation, allowing significant write-offs on new equipment purchases.*



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# SSDA-AT Endorses REPAIR Act in 119th Congress to Strengthen Right to Repair

*...automakers are restricting vehicle owners and automotive repair shops from accessing repair data and tools, resulting in higher repair costs, fewer service options, and longer wait times for vehicle maintenance.*

*The REPAIR Act would affirm that this data belongs to the vehicle's owner, not the manufacturer.*



By Roy Littlefield IV

**Congressman Neal Dunn (Florida-02) introduced** the Right to Equitable and Professional Auto Industry Repair Act or the “REPAIR Act,” a bill that would ensure vehicle owners have access to important repair and diagnostic data needed for auto repairs.

Currently, automakers are restricting vehicle owners and automotive repair shops from accessing repair data and tools, resulting in higher repair costs, fewer service options, and longer wait times for vehicle maintenance. The REPAIR Act would affirm that this data belongs to the vehicle's owner,

not the manufacturer.

SSDA-AT supports the Right to Equitable and Professional Auto Industry Repair (REPAIR) Act to protect the right to repair nationwide.

“American consumers deserve full control over their vehicle repair and maintenance data to ensure they can find the best service for their vehicle at a reasonable price. Unfortunately, vehicle manufacturers are standing in the way of American consumers accessing their own data to use the repair shop of their choosing, limiting consumer choice,” said Congressman Dunn. “For far too long, manufacturers have championed anti-competitive practices by withholding crucial maintenance information, squeezing their customers and independent repair shops.”

“Your vehicle belongs to you, not the manufacturer. I am introducing the REPAIR Act to provide a binding, workable solution to anti-competitive behavior in the auto repair industry to reaffirm consumer control over their vehicle maintenance data and empower them to work with repair shops big and small.”

“Americans are tired of lip service about lowering prices or respecting the trades. We want to be able to fix our own stuff and to be stewards of our stuff and not reliant on a stream of cheap disposable crap. But auto manufacturers have made it increasingly difficult to have real agency,” said Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez. “It’s time for Congress to listen to ordinary Americans and pass right to repair legislation.”

SSDA-AT urges the authorizing committees within Congress to consider the REPAIR Act.

Right to repair remains a top priority for SSDA-AT members and a national law would provide for much needed clarity and direction in vehicle repair.





Background:

- On February 11th, a federal judge in Massachusetts dismissed a lawsuit from the Alliance for Automotive Innovation against the state's Right to Repair law, which passed by a state ballot with 74.97% of the vote. The Alliance for Automotive Innovation represents a significant portion of vehicle manufacturers selling cars in the United States.
- Vehicle Manufacturers resisted the Massachusetts ballot measure through another group, the Coalition for Safe and Secure Data, which raised over \$26.4 million to campaign

- against the initiative. Top donors to the Coalition for Safe and Secure Data include General Motors, Toyota Motor North America, Inc., Ford Motor Company, and American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
- On July 11th, 2023, the Alliance for Automotive Innovation released a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between vehicle manufacturers and two automotive repair industry groups, the Automotive Service Association and the Society of Collision Repair Specialists, claiming to have reached an agreement to share crucial diagnostic information.

- It is notable that the MOU omits the size and scope of the membership of the two groups named in the agreement. The vast majority of groups representing independent aftermarket repair businesses oppose the MOU, including SSDA-AT, the Tire Industry Association (TIA), Auto Care Association, Consumer Access to Repair (CAR) Coalition, MEMA Aftermarket Suppliers, the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), and the Preventative Automotive Maintenance Association (PAMA). ■



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# BREAKING: Treasury Pauses CTA Enforcement



By Roy Littlefield III

**The Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)** announced that it is ceasing enforcement of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) while it crafts a new set of regulations that will ultimately narrow the scope of the reporting regime.

It's a huge win, particularly as the CTA's reporting requirements were scheduled to take effect once again beginning March 21.

Here's the key passage from FinCEN's release:

FinCEN announced that it will not issue any fines or penalties or take any other enforcement actions against any companies based on any failure to file or update beneficial ownership information (BOI) reports pursuant to the Corporate Transparency Act by the current deadlines. No fines or penalties will be issued, and no enforcement actions will be taken, until a forthcoming interim final rule becomes effective and the new relevant due dates in the interim final rule have passed. This announcement continues Treasury's commitment to reducing regulatory burden on businesses, as well as prioritizing under the Corporate Transparency Act reporting of BOI for those entities that pose the most significant law enforcement and national security risks. [Emphasis added.]

The agency also made clear that a new proposed rule will be unveiled next month, and will likely include significant changes to the existing reporting regime:

No later than March 21, 2025, FinCEN intends to issue an interim final rule that extends BOI reporting deadlines, recognizing the need to provide new guidance and clarity as quickly as possible, while ensuring that BOI that is highly useful to important national security, intelligence, and law enforcement activities is reported.

FinCEN also intends to solicit public comment on potential revisions to existing BOI reporting requirements. FinCEN will consider those comments as part of a notice of proposed rulemaking anticipated to be issued later this year to minimize burden on small businesses while ensuring that BOI is highly useful to important national security, intelligence, and law enforcement activities, as well to determine what, if any, modifications to the deadlines referenced here should be considered.

The relief is precisely what the Main Street business community requested earlier this month. So hats off to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent for recognizing the significant burden the CTA places on millions of law-abiding Americans and for taking swift action.

In the meantime, we look forward to reviewing the proposed regulations and remain hopeful that they will risk-based protocol for enforcement, something we've advocated for since Day One. ■

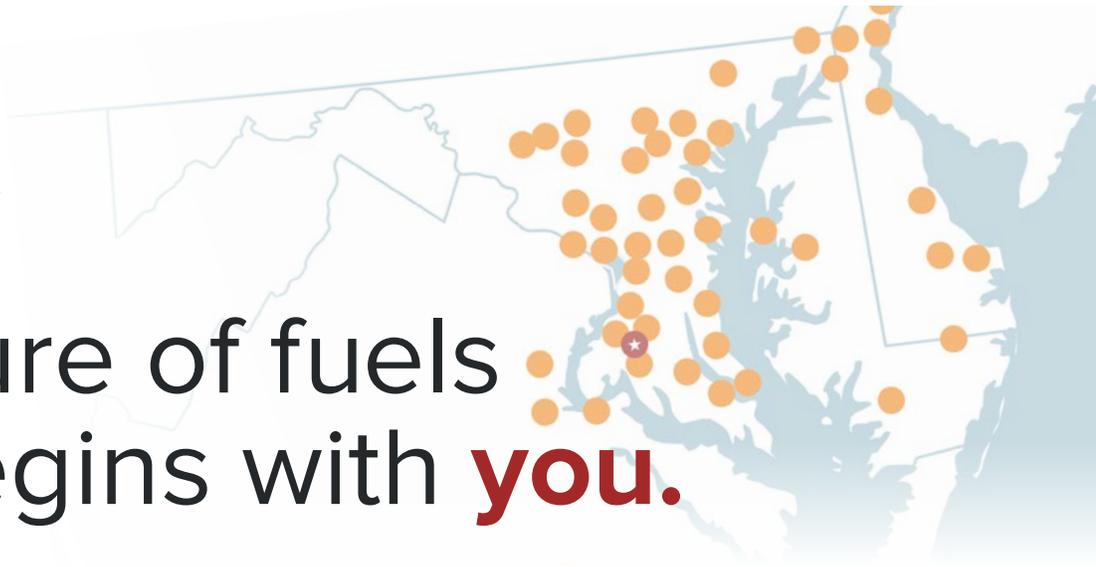


*FinCEN announced that it will not issue any fines or penalties or take any other enforcement actions against any companies based on any failure to file or update beneficial ownership information...*



Wills Group

# The future of fuels retail begins with **you.**



With nearly 100 years of experience in the industry, the Wills Group is one of the most trusted fuels network partners, with nearly 300 locations across the Mid-Atlantic region.

## Why work with the Wills Group:

We aim to be the preferred choice, working in partnership with our customers to offer superior value.

### Key benefits:



Custom solutions  
Partner approach for best value



Industry-leading fuel brands  
Lowest fuel prices



Flexible credit and EFT terms  
No hidden fees

## Three ways to work with us:

### Self Service

- Best and lowest fuel cost
- Guaranteed fuel supply
- Upfront delivery costs with negotiated rates

### Flexible Growth

- All Self Service benefits
- Site upgrade assistance
- Cash grant options

### Wills Advantage

- All Self Service & Flexible Growth benefits
- Management of fuel system upgrades
- Splash In ECO Car Wash franchise opportunity

Fuels network brands and companies:

