

# NOZZLE & WRENCH

WMDACAR

VOLUME 24 / ISSUE 12  
DECEMBER 2025

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON DC, MARYLAND & DELAWARE SERVICE STATION & AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR ASSOCIATION

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- >> 2025 Year in Review
- >> Maryland's Sales Below Cost Law and Grocery Store Discounts
- >> The Holiday Reset: Using December to Reboot Your Gas Station & C-Store for a Successful 2026

*Maryland is required by Maryland constitution to have a balanced budget. So, in this year's legislation session they must pass a balanced budget...*

## KIRK'S CORNER

# Annapolis Madness, Special Session, Change of Leadership, Total Chaos



By Kirk McCauley, Director Of Member Relations & Government Affairs

**Maryland Legislative Services** had estimated a \$321 million dollar surplus at the start of FY2027, in late November they came back with a revised estimate of a deficit of \$1.4 billion for FY2027. Why does it matter? Maryland is required by Maryland constitution to have a balanced budget. So, in this year's legislation session they must pass a balanced budget for FY 2027, July 1 of 2026 to June 30th, 2027.

This is also an election year, and legislators will be shy to pass tax increases on voters. That leaves 3 sources, either cut \$1.4 billion in spending, pass legislation to delay spending on programs already passed, increase business taxes and fees or all three.

A blood bath is also brewing in Annapolis with House Speaker Jones stepping down unexpectedly, a fight for house leadership and a potential change of committees and chairs as house speakers control all aspects of the house. While this is happening Governor Moore wants a special session, week of December 15th is being internally talked about, and all this was before Speaker Jones stepping down. Maryland is divided into eight [congressional districts](#), each represented by a member of the United States House of Representatives. Seven democrats and one republican. Governor Moore wants to change district maps to try and unseat Congressman Andy Harris the lone republican. Senate President Bill Ferguson is against this redistricting, as a judge ruled last attempt in 2022 as unconstitutional. If a special session becomes reality Senate President Ferguson could face a backlash, and a vote to unseat him.

I am going to ask every member business to register on Maryland General Assembly website, Multiple locations have your managers sign up. Grass roots response from business owners is effective, if done in numbers. Sign up is easy, go to [Home Page](#) Maryland General Assembly. **Sign up now!**



*Continues on page 4*

# Parts Authority™

## Auto Parts Super Stores

**“The Answer Is Yes!”®**

- WMDA Preferred Parts Supplier
- Aggressive and competitive pricing
- “SHOT-GUN” and scheduled deliveries to most MD, VA and DC areas
- Experienced parts professionals to answer your calls and questions
- Online cataloging/ordering websites

➤ [www.nexpart.com](http://www.nexpart.com)

➤ [pai.turboii.com](http://pai.turboii.com)

➤ [imcparts.com](http://imcparts.com)

**Annapolis**  
Maryland  
(410) 268-6615

**Baltimore (Mainline)**  
Maryland  
(410) 664-8100

**Frederick**  
Maryland  
(301) 990-1600

**Glen Burnie**  
Maryland  
(410) 691-3784

**Laurel**  
Maryland  
(240) 459-3902

**SE Washington D.C.**  
Washington, DC  
(202) 582-1300

**Arlington**  
Virginia  
(703) 528-1871



**Baltimore (Kelso)**  
Maryland  
(443) 673-3438

**College Park**  
Maryland  
(301) 474-1030

**Gaithersburg**  
Maryland  
(301) 990-1600

**Hyattsville (Kenilworth)**  
Maryland  
(301) 779-8700

**Rockville (Stonestreet)**  
Maryland  
(301) 424-6270

**NW Washington D.C.**  
Washington, DC  
(202) 829-6315

**Richmond**  
Virginia  
(804) 354-0766

**Hanover**  
Maryland  
(800) 874-8925

**Lutherville-Timonium**  
Maryland  
(410) 769-0833

**Rockville (Wyaconda)**  
Maryland  
(301) 424-2010

**Norfolk**  
Virginia  
(757) 962-4647



PRESS #9 FOR SPANISH HOTLINE



[www.partsauthority.com](http://www.partsauthority.com)

[my.partsauthority.com](http://my.partsauthority.com)

**JOIN THE TRADE  
ASSOCIATION THAT  
PUTS MONEY IN  
YOUR POCKET**

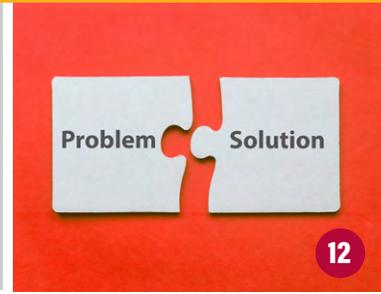
**WMDA**

**WMDA  
CAR**

**SERVING THE  
SERVICE STATIONS,  
CONVENIENCE &  
REPAIR BUSINESSES**

*Over \$245,000 in Rebates  
to members in 6 months*

**Join today at  
[wmdacar.com](http://wmdacar.com)**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### KIRK'S KORNER

Annapolis Madness, Special Session, Change of Leadership, Total Chaos ..... Cover

### NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Legislative Update: SSSA-AT Expands Efforts to Advance the REPAIR Act and  
Protect Independent Repair .....14

Editorial: Nearly One-Fifth of EPA Employees Choose to Participate in  
Federal Resignation Program .....16

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

2025 Year in Review ..... 6

Maryland's Sales Below Cost Law and Grocery Store Discounts ..... 10

The Holiday Reset: Using December to Reboot Your Gas Station & C-Store  
for a Successful 2026.....12

WMDA/CAR Endorsed Membership Benefits & Service Providers .....18

## ADVERTISERS' INDEX

Carroll Motor Fuels .....15

Erie Insurance/Clark Insurance Agency.....17

Parts Authority ..... Inside front cover

Petroleum Marketing Group .....5

Spigler Petroleum Equipment, LLC ..... 11

The Wills Group..... Back cover

**WMDA/CAR**  
1532 Pointer Ridge Place  
Suite F  
Bowie, MD 20716  
301.390.0900  
[wmdacar.com](http://wmdacar.com)

**Swapna Sripada**  
Director of Operations  
301.390.0900, ext. 115  
[ssripada@wmdacar.com](mailto:ssripada@wmdacar.com)

**Kirk McCauley**  
Director of Member  
Relations and  
Government Affairs  
301.390.0900, ext. 114  
[kmccauley@wmdacar.com](mailto:kmccauley@wmdacar.com)

**WMDACAR**  
[wmdacar.com](http://wmdacar.com)

**PARTICIPATION**  
*is the key, and it makes a significant difference in outcome, and in your wallet.*

*Continued from cover page*

- Top right hand corner click on MYMGA in a square.
- Click on Register and fill out form, where it say organization put your location name, you are representing your business.
- Hit register at bottom of page, you are registered  
You are now registered, you can sign in any time, and good for entire legislative session. Five minutes at most and you can make a difference. I will give bullet points on bills to make responding easier.

PARTICIPATION is the key, and it makes a significant difference in outcome, and in your wallet. While I'm on subject of participation I will throw in another request, stop in a location near you and ask the owner if he is a member, or if you know of someone in a convenience store, bayed station or repair shop that not a member get them to sign up. Numbers do count, we could double our membership if everyone got 1 member to sign up. Not only our membership but our influence with legislators. WMDA/CAR saves members money every year and if anyone questions that, I can give an example of how membership dues is pocket change over dollars put in their wallet.

### **ECO Nozzles and Low Permeation Hoses MDE Air Quality**

WMDA/CAR and MAPDA has sent written information/response to proposed requirements [here](#) by MDE-Air Quality Division pertaining to ECO Nozzles and Low Permeation at Gasoline Dispensing Facilities (GDF) phase in beginning in 2028. Sent to Kelsey Sisko, Senir Natural Resources Planner, Air Quality Division.

---

Kelsey,

Thank you again to you and Randy for meeting with the Ad Hoc group to discuss MDE's proposal to require ECO nozzles and Low Permeation hoses at all Gas Dispensing Facilities (GDFs). Below are bullet points summarizing our concerns:

- Gasoline dispensing Facilities (GDFs) would incur well over a 300-350% increase in equipment costs. ***This initial cost estimate does not include labor.***
- When asked at the stakeholder's meeting where performance & longevity of hardware and fuel savings estimates to GDF locations came from – reply from MDE was, “manufacturers.” Manufacturers that sell these products are not a reliable source to grade their own product's

performance. As you know, each GDF has unique circumstances - footprint, number of dispensers, and other infrastructural considerations.

- ECO nozzles do not fit all vehicles, Dodge pickups between 2015-2019 are not compatible with ECO nozzles. In 2019 alone [Dodge sold 703,023 trucks](#). This leads to a legitimate concern about fill pipes and spilled products. One conventional nozzle per location is not a practical solution. Customers finding that one nozzle in rush hours or even knowing they need a “special nozzle” to fill their tank can lead to a legal and consumer-relations nightmare.
- This type of nozzle that must be compressed to function can pose hazards when fitting into small gas containers and motorcycles where the nozzle spout reaches 6 or 7 inches. Consumers will have to retract the spout while holding the nozzle with one hand and compress the spout with other hand to fill container. The fumes that he or she will inhale while performing this action is a health hazard. Spills will also occur while filling in this manner.
- Our members have not reported hoses leaking fuel unless already damaged. Damaged hoses are replaced as they occur. Initial cost to replace current equipment with ECO Nozzles and Low Permeation Hoses would be at extraordinary cost.
- The cost versus benefit of this new equipment does not add up. What is the ROI on product savings? Twenty or thirty years?



## **Update on Maryland Speaker of House**

Delegate Joseline Pena – Melnyk, represent Parts of P.G. and Ann Arundel County has emerged out of a group of four self-proclaimed candidates to say she has the votes to become next speaker of Maryland House. Del. Ben Barnes, Jheanelle Wilkins and C.T. Wilson, all committee chairs and candidates for house speaker have said they now support her for the new speaker of the house. House delegates will convene on December 16 to decide but from all looks we have a new speaker in Joseline Pene-Melnyk. Read full story in Baltimore Sun.

- Finally, an “installed by” date seems arbitrary. Our members should not have to remove perfectly functioning equipment to install new equipment with no demonstrable, near-term savings.

Again, thank you for opening this dialogue and for taking our concerns into account. We look forward to continued talks.

---

MDE return message, asked for our figures on percentage of cost increases, MDE estimate were not close in stakeholders meeting and we sent them the following.

---

**Kelsey, costs are rounded to dollars, standard hoses are 8 or 8.5 but some do use a longer 12 ft hose to reach both sides, with a retractor.**

**John M Ellsworth Company -**  
[Petroleum Equipment & Supplies | JME Ellsworth](#)

**Conventional Hoses and Nozzles**

- Nozzles – OPW -11BP \$77.00– 11AP \$85.00  
 Husky X5 – \$108.00
- Dispensing Hoses – Continental ¾ hoses standard hose \$60.00 – \$96.00  
 Depending length/model (8,9,10,12ft)
- Whip hose – Continental 8” \$21.00 - \$32.00

**ECO Nozzles and Hoses**

- OPW nozzle – \$373.00
- Husky nozzle – \$372.00
- Dispensing Hoses – Continental ¾ \$196.00 - \$311.00 – depending on length 8-12ft
- Whip – Continental 8” \$83.00

Any questions on anything in this article please call or text 301-775-0221.

Always good to hear from members, look for dates of legislative briefings starting, late January. ■

**Petroleum Marketing Group, Inc.**

**Quality Branded and Unbranded Supply**

**Marketing Programs for Branded and Unbranded Locations**

**Economical Re-imaging and Competitive Pricing Programs**

**Reliable Fuel Delivery 24/7**

**Fuel Inventory Services**

**Internet Based Credit Card Reporting**

**Exclusive Circle K Branding for Stores**

2359 Research Court  
 Woodbridge, VA 22192  
[www.petromg.com](http://www.petromg.com)

**PMG**

Contact Mike Natale  
 413-478-4272

# 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

## WMOACAR

### Training Day at Lincoln College of Technology



### General Membership Meeting



## 7th Annual golf outing



**2025**  
YEAR IN REVIEW

# 2025

## YEAR IN REVIEW

### MAFCAS 2025



TRAINING DAY 2026 IS GOING FULLY "TECHNICAL"

SAVE THE DATE

WMDA**CAR**

# TRAINING DAY

SAT., FEB. 21, 2026

**INVEST IN YOUR TECHNICIANS,  
MOVE YOUR BUSINESS FORWARD**

LINCOLN COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

9325 SNOWDEN RIVER PKWY

COLUMBIA, MD 21046

REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

# Maryland's Sales Below Cost Law and Grocery Store Discounts

Brought to you by Lynott, Lynott & Parsons, P.A.

**Under Maryland law, a retail service station dealer** is not allowed to sell motor fuel below cost. The prohibition is codified in Maryland Business Regulation (“BR”) Code § 10-304.1, which prohibits (with limited exceptions) the practice of selling motor fuel at a loss (*i.e.* “below cost”), while also providing mechanisms for enforcement by the Maryland Comptroller’s Office.

The underlying definition of “below cost” is given in BR § 10301(d). The statute defines “below cost” to mean a price less than the sum of:

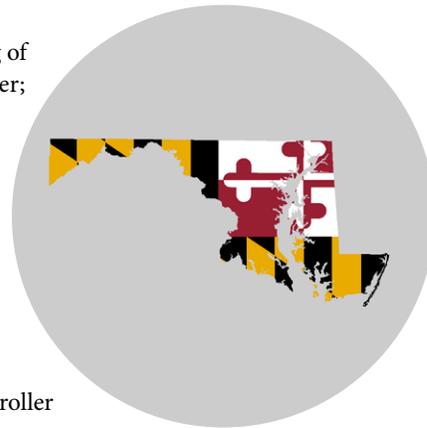
1. the lower of (a) the most recently published average reseller rack cost by grade (per OPIS) for the terminal from which the fuel was delivered or (b) the actual invoice cost from the supplier; and
2. freight charges plus all applicable federal, State, and local taxes not included in the invoice.

The below cost law contains limited exceptions. Sales of motor fuel below cost do not violate the law if the sale is

- (1) made in good faith to meet competition;
- (2) made as part of a final liquidation or closing of the business of the retail service station dealer;
- (3) made as part of a bona fide charitable promotion lasting no longer than 2 days; or
- (4) made under the direction or order of a court or government entity.

§ 10-304.1(b). The implementing regulation, COMAR 03.03.05.061 (Below Cost Compliance Verification), instructs the Comptroller how to inspect and compute cost and freight (with a set freight assumption of 3¢/gallon) and provides that if documents are not immediately available, the Comptroller shall determine cost and freight by formula, and if the computed cost plus freight is not higher than the retail price, the retailer must adjust upward. If the Comptroller finds that a violation has occurred, it issues a stop sale notice, and may suspend or revoke the dealer’s certificate of registration. In addition, under BR § 10324, a person who violates the law is guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, is subject to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or imprisonment not exceeding one year or both.

One of the issues that has been debated related to the below cost sales law is whether grocery store programs allowing discounts for gasoline purchases run afoul of the law. Several grocery stores (including Giant and Safeway) offer “points” based upon grocery store purchases that allow customers to redeem them at participating retailers for discounts on fuel purchases, often resulting in a motor fuel price that is below the retailer’s cost.



*One of the issues that has been debated related to the below cost sales law is whether grocery store programs allowing discounts for gasoline purchases run afoul of the law*



In 2006, a complaint was filed related to a points program operated by Martin’s Food Market (owned by Giant) in Hagerstown, Maryland. The Comptroller reviewed the program, and determined that it did not violate the below cost sales law. The Comptroller’s reasoning focused on the **total transaction**, which includes the grocery purchases that earned the fuel points. Since the overall transaction still generates a profit from the combination of grocery and fuel sales, the Comptroller determined that the points program did not violate the law. The ruling has set a precedent for the legality of such

programs in Maryland.

The points program offered by stores such as Giant and Safeway differs from a general overall discount on fuel for all customers. In 2022, the state’s below-cost law prevented Sheetz from offering a \$1.99 per gallon special on Unleaded 88 fuel in Maryland. Instead, Sheetz could only discount the fuel as low as possible while remaining above cost.

**Conclusion**

Maryland’s below cost sales law prohibits the sale of motor fuel below cost to preserve fair competition and market stability, while leaving limited exceptions

(competition, liquidation, charitable promotion, and judicial orders). While it has helped protect small businesses from predatory practices, it has also raised questions about market freedom and consumer rights. As gas pricing markets evolve—especially with the rise of electric vehicles, online fuel price comparison apps, and changing demand patterns—there may be pressure to revisit or amend the law. In the meantime, absent a change in policy by the Comptroller’s office, the “points” programs offered by grocery stores in Maryland may continue to operate without running afoul of the law. ■

# Spigler Petroleum Equipment

443-471-7600

is here to support all your station's needs

## Sales

- Encore 700’s with Flex 6
- Passport with self-checkout systems
- Veeder-Root TLS Systems
- Express Food Ordering & Much, Much More



and now  
Pump & Tank,  
Environmental compliance



## Service

- Locally owned & Operated
- Loyalty Service Plans
- 25+ Certified Technicians
- Servicing - MD, VA, DE, PA, DC, and WV

# The Holiday Reset: Using December to Reboot Your Gas Station & C-Store for a Successful 2026

Brought to you by Tim Jancius, Spigler Petroleum Equipment, LLC

**As the holiday season arrives**, most of us naturally turn our attention to family, traditions, and the spirit of gratitude. But for gas station and convenience-store owners, December represents something even more powerful: a rare moment of breathing room. The rush of summer is long past, fall maintenance is mostly behind us, and winter travel hasn't yet peaked.

This quiet window makes December one of the most strategic months of the entire year — the perfect time for a Holiday Reset.

Instead of simply ending the year, December can be the month that launches a stronger, more profitable, and more efficient 2026.

## 1. Step Back Before You Step Forward

The challenge for many owners is that the day-to-day grind leaves little time for reflection. December provides a short but valuable opportunity to zoom out and ask:

- What worked this year?
- What held us back?
- What do customers consistently complain about?
- What new competition or customer behaviors did we see?

This isn't a vague "planning session." Think of it like a winter tune-up for your business — tightening bolts, checking fluids, and preparing for a long road ahead.

A few places to start:

### Inspect your customer experience from the outside in

Walk in like a customer:

- Are the restrooms clean?
- Are the pumps well-lit and easy to read?
- Are signs worn, peeling, or outdated?
- Are the coffee, foodservice, or grab-and-go areas inviting?

These simple impressions determine whether customers become regulars or drive to the next station.

### Audit your workflows and staffing

December is ideal for reviewing how your team operates and whether your staffing model still fits customer demand.

This is also a great time to **consider the addition of a self-checkout system**. Many independent stores have already begun adopting compact, modern self-checkout options that:

- Reduce wait times during peak hours
- Free up staff to focus on customer service, stocking, and cleaning
- Help manage labor shortages or unexpected call-outs
- Provide an option for customers who prefer quick, contactless experiences

Implementing self-checkout doesn't replace your team — it supports them, keeps

*Instead of simply ending the year, December can be the month that launches a stronger, more profitable, and more efficient 2026.*





lines moving, and improves overall customer satisfaction.

Making small scheduling or workflow adjustments now — including technology enhancements like self-checkout — can pay huge dividends by January.

## 2. Clean Up the Hidden Clutter: Systems, Data & Inventory

Every site has “clutter” — and not just the physical kind.

### POS Cleanup

Old buttons, outdated PLUs, expired items, unused categories... December is the time to fix it. Clean, organized POS systems speed up checkout and reduce mistakes.

### Inventory Reset

Go through:

- Slow movers
- Overstock
- Old seasonal items
- Dusty items nobody has touched in months

Clear them out — then reorganize shelves based on actual sales data from the year.

### Digital & Administrative Cleanup

This includes:

- Removing old vendors
- Updating contact lists
- Cleaning up software logins or unused accounts
- Updating training records
- Reviewing maintenance logs

A clean system = fewer problems in busy season.

## 3. December Is the Best Month for Maintenance & Upgrades

January and February often bring freezing lines, pump issues, heating problems, and electrical surprises. Prevent those headaches by using December to get ahead.

### Smart December Maintenance Moves:

- Test and replace pump filters
- Inspect canopy lights and swap any dim or flickering LEDs
- Service your HVAC before winter load hits
- Check door seals, cooler gaskets, and walk-in temperatures
- Replace worn or leaking nozzles
- Clean or recalibrate coffee machines and foodservice equipment

Small fixes now prevent costly downtime later.

### Don't forget required inspections

If your state or insurance provider requires annual or monthly inspections, December is a great time to get caught up, restocked, and ready.

## 4. Refresh Your Marketing for the New Year

Consumers expect things to look clean, modern, and intentional — especially as national brands raise the bar.

### Use December to refresh:

- Pum decals
- Window signage
- Storefront visuals
- Menu boards
- Coffee station layouts
- Loyalty program materials
- Employee uniforms

A fresh, brighter store in January sends a message:

*“We care, and we're ready for the new year.”*

## 5. Review the 2026 Landscape: Regulations, Technology & Opportunities

The goal of a Holiday Reset isn't just cleaning and organizing — it's preparing for the year ahead.

### A few 2026 items worth preparing for:

- Possible E15 expansion and how

it affects your fuel mix, pump labels, and customer education

- Increasing payment-security requirements, including tightening around EMV/contactless systems
- Growing popularity of subscription-based revenue (car wash memberships, drink clubs)
- Tax incentives for capital investment, which are expected to continue driving remodels and equipment upgrades
- Smarter remote monitoring and compliance tools becoming more affordable and easier to adopt

You don't need to overhaul everything in December — but you should choose what your site will prioritize next year.

## 6. End the Year With Gratitude — and Momentum

The holiday season is a time to be thankful. Thankful for your customers. Thankful for your employees. Thankful for the community that keeps your lights on.

But gratitude in business is most powerful when paired with action.

A Holiday Reset is your chance to show customers and employees that you're committed to improving their experience, strengthening your operation, and preparing for a successful year.

### Final Thought

December isn't the end — it's the beginning.

A clean store, tuned-up equipment, refreshed marketing, smoother workflows, and a clear plan for new regulations and opportunities will set your gas station or convenience store up to thrive in 2026. ■

# SSDA-AT Expands Efforts to Advance the REPAIR Act and Protect Independent Repair



By Roy Littlefield IV

**SSDA-AT representing WMDA/CAR** on the federal level is expanding its nationwide efforts to support the bipartisan REPAIR Act, a bill aimed at protecting consumers' ability to choose where their vehicles are serviced and ensuring that independent repair shops can access the tools, data, and technology needed to work on today's modern vehicles. As cars become more connected and increasingly reliant on software, it's becoming harder for independent shops to get the information required to perform even routine repairs—making this legislation more important than ever.

To raise awareness, SSDA-AT has increased its presence on Capitol Hill. The association has been meeting with lawmakers, staff, and other officials to explain what's happening in the real world: shops struggling to obtain repair data, customers paying more because they have fewer service options, and small businesses working overtime just to keep up with changes in vehicle technology. These conversations help put a spotlight on the issue and show why a fair and open repair market benefits everyone.

SSDA-AT is also relying on its members to help make these challenges clear. Independent repair shops, suppliers, and service providers across the country are sharing stories of delays, added costs, and lost business caused by limited access to essential repair tools and information. Their experiences show the everyday impact of restricted access—especially in small towns and rural communities where independent shops often serve as the main source of reliable, affordable automotive service.

In addition, SSDA-AT is strengthening its work with national organizations and coalitions focused on repair access. By coordinating efforts with automotive, aftermarket, and consumer groups, the association is helping build a strong, united voice that calls on Congress to advance the REPAIR Act. This kind of teamwork is important, because it shows that businesses, consumers, and industry leaders all recognize the need for clear rules and fair competition.



*As cars become more connected and increasingly reliant on software, it's becoming harder for independent shops to get the information required to perform even routine repairs—making this legislation more important than ever.*



Back home, SSDA-AT is keeping its members informed and involved. The association continues to share updates, explain what's happening in Congress, and offer tools that help shops talk to their own elected officials. The goal is to make sure every member understands not only what the REPAIR Act does, but why it matters to their customers, their business, and the future of independent repair.

As the conversation grows in Washington, SSDA-AT will stay engaged and look for every opportunity to move the legislation forward. The association believes that with steady advocacy and strong industry participation, the REPAIR Act has a real chance of becoming law—and that its passage is essential for keeping repair costs reasonable, maintaining consumer choice, and ensuring independent repair shops can continue serving communities across the country. ■

## **CF CARROLL<sup>®</sup>** **MOTOR FUELS**

- DEALER FRIENDLY**
- 24/7/365 FUEL DELIVERY**
- GAS STATION & C-STORE DESIGN**
- SITE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**
- ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT**
- STATION BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**
- COMPETITIVE BRANDED & UNBRANDED PRICING**
- STATION MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES**
- COMPLETE SITE BRANDING**
- ROBUST DEALER PORTAL**



**877-235-0223**  
**WWW.CARROLLBRANDEDFUELS.COM**

# Nearly One-Fifth of EPA Employees Choose to Participate in Federal Resignation Program

*Approximately 2,620 EPA employees have accepted the “deferred resignation” offer.*



By Roy Littlefield III

**Nearly 20 percent of the Environmental Protection Agency’s** workforce has opted into a federal resignation program launched earlier this year, according to figures the agency provided to POLITICO’s E&E News. The program, which offers employees the option to take administrative leave with pay before voluntarily resigning later in the year, has drawn significant interest across the federal government and is contributing to a notable reduction in staffing at EPA.

Approximately 2,620 EPA employees have accepted the “deferred resignation” offer. The agency reviewed all applications submitted across the four rounds offered in 2024. As of the end of September—when EPA reported 15,166 employees on board—more than 17 percent of its staff were positioned to leave the agency by the end of the year through this program.

The resignation initiative, sometimes referred to as the “Fork in the Road,” was rolled out in January to more than 2 million federal employees shortly after President Donald Trump took office. Participants were offered administrative leave with full pay and benefits, followed by a voluntary resignation date later in the year.

Throughout 2024, EPA officials communicated details of the program to staff and encouraged participation among those who wished to leave federal service. The final round, which closed on October 3, focused on employees in the Office of Research and Development (ORD). According to agency communications, the administration plans to eliminate ORD and replace it with a smaller research entity, the Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions, located within the administrator’s office.





Employees who opted into the program are departing in two phases. The first group left on September 30, while the remaining participants are scheduled to resign on December 31. Nationally, the Office of Personnel Management reports that roughly 154,000 federal workers accepted the deferred resignation offer, with about 100,000 leaving in September and approximately 50,000 expected to exit by year's end.

The large number of departures marks a substantial workforce shift for EPA. While the long-term impacts remain to be seen, the agency enters the next year with a reduced staff and ongoing restructuring within its research operations. Federal officials have indicated that more information on agency adjustments and workforce planning will be provided as the transition progresses. ■



Erie  
Insurance®

### Clark Insurance Agency, LLC

Henry T. "Buddy" Clark IV  
14418 Old Mill Rd Suite 101  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
P:301-574-9494  
buddy@clarkinsurancellc.com  
www.clarkinsurancellc.com



**WMDA  
CAR**

SERVING THE SERVICE STATIONS,  
CONVENIENCE & REPAIR BUSINESSES

Join today at [wmdacar.com](http://wmdacar.com)

# WMDA CAR

## WMDA/CAR ENDORSED MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS & SERVICE PROVIDERS

*Be sure to check out these companies endorsed by WMDA/CAR.*

### ATM MACHINES

Intelicom, Inc.  
Larry Shapero  
1-877-666-6269  
[intelicom@verizon.net](mailto:intelicom@verizon.net)

### INTELCOM, INC.

### AUTO PARTS SUPPLIER

[Parts Authority](#)  
Michael Ground  
202-829-6315  
[mground@partsauthority.com](mailto:mground@partsauthority.com)



### CONVENIENCE STORE PRODUCTS

[Century Distributors, Inc.](#)  
Bill Stamos  
301-212-9100



*Century Distributors, Inc.*

### CREDIT CARD PROCESSING

[TalusPay](#)  
Marcy Grimm  
301-421-4111  
[mgrimm@taluspay.com](mailto:mgrimm@taluspay.com)



### ELECTRICITY PROGRAM

[Sprague Energy \(MAAGIC\)](#)  
Mike Jahangani  
603-531-2620  
[mjahangani@spragueenergy.com](mailto:mjahangani@spragueenergy.com)



### LEGAL SERVICES

[Lynott, Lynott & Parsons, P.A.](#)  
James L. Parsons, Jr.  
301-424-5100  
[jparsons@llplawfirm.com](mailto:jparsons@llplawfirm.com)



### WEBSITE DESIGN & MANAGEMENT

[Mays & Associates](#)  
410-964-9701  
[it@ad-mays.com](mailto:it@ad-mays.com)



take control of your online story

### OIL BUYING PROGRAM

[REIT Lubricants Company](#)  
**Chevron/Havoline**  
Jamie Atkinson  
800-423-3624 | 443-309-9929 cell  
[jatkinson@reitlube.com](mailto:jatkinson@reitlube.com)



[H.N.Funkhouser & Co.](#)

Mark Conner  
1-800-343-6556  
[mconner@hnfunkhouser.com](mailto:mconner@hnfunkhouser.com)



**H. N. Funkhouser & Co.**  
*Quality Petroleum Products Since 1932!*

### WMDA/CAR LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY INFORMATION

[WMDA/CAR](#)  
Kirk McCauley  
301-390-0900, ext. 114  
[kmccauley@wmdacar.com](mailto:kmccauley@wmdacar.com)



## LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP WORK FOR YOU!

*Simply participate in all of the programs for which you are eligible and you will save or make enough to pay for your membership in WMDA/CAR!*



# 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:

