

PRARA NEWS

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July 2025



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Everything good, everything
magical happens between the
months of June and August.

JENNY HAN

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Full page	\$900
1/2 page	\$600
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1/8 page	\$330
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EMERGENCY SPILL KIT

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8 absorbent pads

2 pair gloves

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

BY: KEVIN FORSYTHE

Trump breaks silence with furious two-word oil threat

U.S. President Donald Trump has seemingly threatened businesses to maintain low oil prices even as Iran has threatened to retaliate after three of its nuclear facilities were bombed by the US. Trump posted he was watching them on his Truth Social page. "EVERYONE, KEEP OIL PRICES DOWN," in a post "I'M WATCHING!"

The president added that businesses were "playing right into the hands of the enemy" and "don't do it." In a follow-up post, the president mentioned the Department of Energy specifically. "To The Department of Energy: DRILL, BABY, DRILL!!!

The posts come after Iran vowed to brutally kill as many as 50,000 American soldiers after the attacks. Fearing for his own life, Trump has reportedly had given US officials one simple instruction should Iran plot his assassination.

"If they did that, they would be obliterated," he warned. "That would be the end. I've left instructions. If they do it, they get obliterated. There won't be anything left."

Using the assassination rumors to his advantage, Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, told the News, "He killed Qasem Soleimani. He made it very clear, including now, 'You cannot have a nuclear weapon, which means you cannot enrich uranium.' He's been very forceful, so for them, he's enemy number one."

Trump has reportedly claimed that he had instructed his advisors to launch a devastating strike against the country should they manage to kill him. Simultaneously, he was signing an executive order directing his Cabinet to apply "maximum pressure" on Tehran, either through sanctions or by probing US-linked proxy groups.

The order further added that Iran must be prevented from acquiring a nuclear weapon or intercontinental ballistic missiles. It also calls for the dismantling of Iran's terrorist networks and the containment of its expanding missile program and other conventional and unconventional military capabilities.

Also in the aftermath of the attacks, Trump's approval rating tanked with his net rating sitting at -13%, according to a poll by The Economist and YouGov. The survey, which was conducted in June, found that 41% of Americans strongly or somewhat approve of how the president is running the country. On the flip side, 54% disapprove, matching his second-term high.

Trump's approval has fallen most sharply among younger adults, with just 27% of under-30s approving of his job handling, while 66% disapprove. Approval of Trump's handling of immigration fell sharply in comparison to the previous week, when 49% approved and 45% disapproved.

On immigration, 44% of people approve of the president's stance, while disapproval is up to 52%. The survey also asked Americans about the Iran-Israel conflict.

According to the survey, half of Americans view Iran as an enemy to the US while 25% say it is unfriendly and 5% say it is an ally or friendly. A total of 61% of Americans viewed Iran's nuclear program as either an immediate and serious threat to the US.



**The Bureau of Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Division
will be offering the following safety webinars in July 2025:**

Tuesday, July 1	
9:30 am	Opioid Use Disorder
11 am	West Nile Virus Awareness
1:30 pm	Camping Safety
Wednesday, July 2	
9:30 am	Fire Extinguisher Use
9:30 am	Fireworks Safety
1:30 pm	Summer Safety
Thursday, July 3	
9:30 am	Workplace Safety Committee Certification Initial
11 am	Distracted Driving
Tuesday, July 8	
9:30 am	Workplace Safety Committee Certification Renewal
11 am	Ergonomics
1:30 pm	Hazard Identification
Wednesday, July 9	
9:30 am	Stress and Worker Safety
Thursday, July 10	
9:30 am	Heat Related Injuries & Illnesses
11 am	Insect Safety
1:30 pm	Lead Awareness & Safety
1:30 pm	Scabies, Bed Bugs, MRSA
Friday, July 11	
9:30 am	Hearing Conservation & Noise Control
1:30 pm	Sprains & Strains
Tuesday, July 15	
9:30 am	Back Safety & Safe Lifting
11 am	Bloodborne Pathogens
1:30 pm	Workplace Safety Committee Certification Initial

Wednesday, July 16	
9:30 am	Drug & Alcohol Awareness - Supervisor
10 am	Active Shooter Training
1:30 pm	Medical Marijuana
Thursday, July 17	
9:30 am	Walking & Working Surfaces
11 am	Ladders
1:30 pm	Excavation & Trenching
Friday, July 18	
9:30 am	Office Safety
1:30 pm	Walkthrough Surveys
Tuesday, July 22	
9:30 am	Warehouse Safety
11 am	Lifting & Material Handling
Wednesday, July 23	
9:30 am	Drug & Alcohol Awareness - Employee
1:30 pm	Powered Industrial Trucks - Classroom
Friday, July 24	
9:30 am	Incident Investigations
11 am	Pre-Operational Process Review
1:30 pm	Emergency Action Plans
Friday, July 25	
9:30 am	Job Safety Analysis
1:30 pm	Working Alone
Tuesday, July 29	
9:30 am	Hazard Communication
11 am	Business Case for Safety
1:30 pm	Return to Work

To register for any of these events just copy and paste the link into your browser and follow the links:
<https://www.dli.pa.gov/Businesses/Compensation/WC/safety/paths/calendar/Pages/default.aspx>

Remember, registration closes the day before the presentation is scheduled to begin.



The image is a promotional graphic for Turner's products. At the top, the "Turner's" logo is written in a white, cursive font on a red, rounded rectangular background. Below the logo, the text "FUELING PITTSBURGH SINCE 1930." is displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font with a white outline. The background of the entire graphic is a light blue sky with stylized white clouds. In the lower half, a dark brown silhouette of the Pittsburgh skyline is visible. In the foreground, several Turner's products are arranged: a large white jug of milk with a red cap, a smaller white jug of milk with a white cap, a brown bottle of chocolate milk, a brown bottle of lemon-flavored iced tea, a carton of premium iced tea, and a yellow bottle of lemonade. Each product has a label featuring the Turner's logo and various illustrations like cows, lemons, and a barn.

Turner's

**FUELING PITTSBURGH
SINCE 1930.**

Turner's
W CHOCOLATE
MILK
12 FL OZ (355 mL)

Turner's
W MILK
12 FL OZ (355 mL)

Turner's
Lemon
Flavored
ICED TEA
12 FL OZ (355 mL)

Turner's
PREMIUM
ICED TEA
12 FL OZ (355 mL)

Turner's
VITAMIN D
FRESH
LACTOSE FREE
2% REDUCED FAT MILK
12 FL OZ (355 mL)

Turner's
lemonade
12 FL OZ (355 mL)



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Brinton Executive Center
1051 Brinton Road Suite 304
Pittsburgh, PA 15221
Phone: (412) 241-2380
Email: tammy@prara.com

Pennsylvania Approved class A & B Operator Training Registration Form

Class Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Time: Registration: 8:30 am
Class: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Location: PRARA Office

Price: \$250 per person (non-member)
\$200 per person (member discount)

Payments are due by July 9, 2025

****Non-refundable payments are required for reservations****

****LIMITED SEATING IS AVAILABLE****

Please register early

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number Attending: _____

Price Includes A & B Operator Training Binder, Lunch, and Certificate of Completion

Amount _____ @ _____

Make Check or Money order payable to: PRARA
1051 Brinton Road
Suite 304
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

PRARA members and readers ..

Sharing vital information and making an **APPEAL TO ACTION** on an **URGENT** matter
Please sign this petition .. make your voice heard .. to STOP Shapiro's ILLEGAL Energy Tax - that could INCREASE electricity rates by 30%



Go here .. Tell Gov. Shapiro we do NOT need ANOTHER energy tax in Pennsylvania!

<https://commonwealthfoundation.quorum.us/campaign/109858/>

RGGI/The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative would add a 30% fee/tax on electricity

Note: PA adds 6.27% GRT gross receipts tax on energy supply (which is then double taxed)

In May: RGGI was again brought to the PA Supreme Court - we are waiting for the decision

<https://www.pennfuture.org/News-Final-Fight-for-PAs-RGGI-Rule-Environmental-Groups-Go-Before-Pennsylvania-Supreme-Court>

To learn more: "State of RGGI: Past, Present, and Future"

<https://commonwealthfoundation.org/research/rggi-pa-backgrounder/#:~:text=The%20Regional%20Greenhouse%20Gas%20Initiative,constitutional%20authority%20to%20levy%20taxes.>

A current major factor driving the price of electricity HIGHER:

The 2025/2026 PJM auction outcome, which INCREASED the cost of CAPACITY by 12.5 BILLION

<https://www.nrdc.org/bio/claire-lang-ree/pjms-capacity-auction-real-story#:~:text=PJM%20delays%20in%20implementing%20interconnection,of%20%24269.92%2FMW%2Dday.>

Another ACTION: contact/call your state Representatives .. tell them you are in OPPOSITION to Shapiro's decision to appeal the Commonwealth Court ruling that held the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is an ILLEGAL tax.

RGGI will CRIPPLE business owners who are hard-pressed by ALREADY HIGH energy bills

The price of ELECTRICITY is HIGH and expected to go higher

If you want to know your current utility rate: PTC price-to-compare: call or email [Aletheia Energy LLC](mailto:fay@findenergysuppliers.com) - Fay Vietmeier 412-298-3005 fay@findenergysuppliers.com

SSDA-AT Legislative Updates

House Passes Sweeping Tax Package with Major Wins for Small Business

On May 22, 2025, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed its long-anticipated reconciliation package—the One Big Beautiful Bill Act—by a vote of 215–214.

While the legislation still awaits action in the Senate, the House version delivers several key victories for small businesses and includes nearly every priority SSDA-AT advocated for this legislative cycle.

Below is a summary of the most significant provisions included in the House bill that affect small businesses, along with explanations of how each measure could benefit your business.

Key Small Business Provisions

Section 199A Deduction Increased and Made Permanent

The pass-through business income deduction is increased from 20% to 23% and permanently extended. This change offers direct tax relief to S corporations, partnerships, sole proprietorships, and LLCs.

100% Bonus Depreciation Restored

The bill reinstates full expensing for qualified property placed in service from 2025 through 2029, allowing businesses to write off capital investments immediately.

Immediate R&D Deduction Reinstated

Domestic research and development costs can once again be fully deducted in the year incurred, reversing the current five-year amortization rule.

Manufacturing Expensing Extended

Businesses may immediately expense investments in qualified manufacturing and refining facilities through 2029—supporting industrial reinvestment.

Section 179 Expensing Cap Increased

The expensing cap is increased from \$1 million to \$2.5 million, with a higher phase-out threshold, giving more flexibility to small businesses investing in equipment and property.

Marginal Tax Rates Made Permanent

The lower individual tax rates enacted in 2017, which benefit pass-through business owners, are permanently extended beyond their scheduled 2025 sunset.

Estate & Gift Tax Exemption Increased

Beginning in 2026, the exemption for estate and gift taxes is increased from \$10 million to \$15 million and indexed to inflation—offering long-term planning certainty for business owners navigating succession and generational transitions.

Business Interest Deduction Expanded (Section 163(j))

The bill excludes depreciation and amortization from the adjusted taxable income calculation, expanding the amount of interest businesses can deduct.

1099 Reporting Threshold Increased

The threshold for issuing 1099-NEC/MISC forms rises from \$600 to \$2,000, easing compliance burdens for businesses using independent contractors.

Paid Family and Medical Leave Credit Made Permanent

Employers may continue to claim a tax credit of up to 25% of wages for providing insured family and medical leave, now available to employees with at least six months of service.

Additional Provisions of Interest

While not part of SSDA's formal policy agenda, the House bill includes several other notable measures:

Child Care Credit Expansion: Increases the cap to \$500,000 (\$600,000 for small businesses), including payments made to third-party providers.

Charitable Deduction for Non-Itemizers: Reintroduces a temporary above-the-line deduction (\$150 for individuals, \$300 for joint filers) from 2025 to 2028.

(Con't. on page 9)

SSDA-AT Legislative Updates

SSDA-AT Praises President Trump for Blocking California EV Mandate, Defends Americans' Right to Vehicle Choice

SSDA-AT applauds President Trump for signing a joint resolution that effectively blocks California's attempt to mandate 100% electric vehicle (EV) sales by 2035. SSDA-AT has long opposed this aggressive and impractical regulation and strongly supports the President's decision to restore consumer choice and protect the broader U.S. economy from the harmful consequences of a one-state policy driving national standards.

California's EV mandate would have required that all new vehicle sales in the state be electric by 2035—effectively eliminating gas- and diesel-powered vehicles from the new car market. SSDA-AT believes this policy was completely unreasonable. It failed to account for the diverse transportation needs of American drivers and the economic realities facing families, businesses, and rural communities. The mandate was disruptive, impractical, and would have caused serious harm to industries across the automotive sector.

Most importantly, the California regulation sought to impose one state's policy on the entire country. Because of the size of California's market, its mandates have nationwide implications for manufacturers, dealers, and consumers. SSDA-AT agrees with the Trump administration that this is a matter of federal jurisdiction. Vehicle emissions standards should be set by the federal government—not a single state—especially when air quality and vehicle markets cross state lines. A patchwork of state regulations is unworkable and threatens to undermine the efficiency and predictability needed in a national economy.

SSDA-AT strongly supports the principle that all Americans should be free to choose the vehicle that works best for their lifestyle and budget—whether that's a gas-powered truck, a hybrid, or an EV. The U.S. Constitution does not grant any state special status to dictate national consumer options or restrict access to proven and affordable vehicle technologies.

In addition to supporting the President's recent action, SSDA-AT is backing legislation in the 119th Congress that would permanently protect consumer vehicle choice. The Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act of 2025 (S.996 and H.R. 346) would codify the federal government's authority to set nationwide vehicle standards and prevent states from issuing their own bans on internal combustion engines.

SSDA-AT will continue to work closely with the administration, lawmakers, and our members to ensure that consumer choice remains protected. We remain committed to supporting policy solutions that are practical, inclusive, and grounded in economic reality—rather than mandates that disregard the complexity of the American vehicle market.

(Con't. from page 8)

Auto Loan Interest Deduction: Allows businesses to deduct up to \$10,000 in interest for loans on U.S.-assembled vehicles—a potential benefit for fleet operators.

Tip Income Deduction: Creates a temporary deduction for tips earned in customary tipping occupations (2025–2028), with exclusions for high-income earners and certain professional fields.

What Comes Next in the Senate

The bill now moves to the Senate, where changes are expected. While the small business provisions have not been specifically targeted for cuts, the broader reconciliation process remains fluid. Senate committees are expected to release revised text later this week.

Reports indicate that Republican members of the Senate Finance Committee met with former President Trump to advocate for preserving the permanence of small business tax incentives. While those senators appear aligned with our priorities, there are factions within the chamber pushing for further spending cuts—some of which may involve scaling back business provisions to achieve budgetary savings.

SSDA-AT will continue to monitor developments and respond swiftly to any Senate revisions that could impact small business tax relief. For now, we remain optimistic that many of the House's pro-small business measures will remain intact in the final package.

MEMBER TO MEMBER SERVICES

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Murrysville, PA
412-423-1093

ATM

ATM Cash World
Tom Ranallo
Pittsburgh
800-937-5169

ATTORNEY

Andrew Klaber
Chartwell Law Offices
Sewickley, PA
412-741-0600

COMPLIANCE TESTING

Total Tank Works LLC
Sean Tosadori-East Butler
724-285-4258

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Joe Schmidlin-Pittsburgh, PA
412-771-6950
www.oilservice.com

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Sean Tosadori-East Butler
724-285-4258

2025 PRARA Scholarship Winner

PRARA is proudly to announce the winner of our 2025 Scholarship Fund, Owen Friend. Owen is a recent graduate of Central Valley High School. While attending high school, Owen was involved in several extra curriculum activities. Activities such as: soccer (grades 9-12), participated on the clay target team (trap shooting), tennis (grade 12), and the FBLA (grades 9-12). Owen also volunteered with several organizations; Central Valley Food Pantry, Big Brother & Big Sister, he helped to organize a youth fishing derby, and the Beaver County Youth Sportsman Conservation League, he was an outdoor camp counselor.

Owen loves to be around the water and nature. This would explain some of his volunteer work.

In August, Owen will be attending the University of North Carolina Wilmington majoring in the Coastal Engineering Environmental Field. Upon graduating from college, Owen would like to pursue employment along the east coast.

Owen's parents are the owners of Friend's Sunoco and Center Independent Oil. Doug, Owen's father, has been a long time member of PRARA and a past president.

Congratulations Owen and the best of luck as you start the next chapter of your life.

MEMBER TO MEMBER SERVICES

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Trump Signs Law Repealing Tailpipe Emission Standards

President Donald Trump signed a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution on June 12 that overturns California's authority to set tailpipe emissions standards. The action upends policy in California and 17 other states (including Pennsylvania) that adopt portions of California regulations. The CRA resolutions nullify three sweeping California mandates: (1) the Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) rule, which attempted to ban internal combustion engine vehicles by 2035; (2) the Advanced Clean Trucks rule; and (3) California's heavy-duty NOx emissions standards.

California's ACC II rule would have required vehicle manufacturers to sell an increasing share of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) starting in model year 2026, culminating in a full ban on internal combustion engine vehicle sales by 2035. Other states had already adopted ZEV California regulations, threatening to upend national transportation markets. These policies—enabled by EPA-issued waivers—would have sharply reduced the availability of liquid fuels, raised transportation and goods costs, and disproportionately harmed small business energy marketers and working families.

Although the CRA now officially overturns EPA's waiver approvals, California Attorney General Rob Bonta and Democratic Attorneys General in 10 other states immediately sued to block enforcement of the law. Pennsylvania was not included in the suit. Governor Gavin Newsom also denounced the action, claiming it undermines California's climate agenda.

Calendar of Events

Independence Day

July 4

A&B Operator Training Class

July 16

Business Hours:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	8:30-3:30
Wednesday	8:30-3:30
Thursday	8:30-3:30
Friday	Closed

Contact:

Phone: 412-241-2380

www.prara.com



Petroleum Retailers & Auto Repair Association
1051 Brinton Road Suite 304
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