

UTAH *Petroleum Marketers & Retailers Association Report*

John Hill
UPMRA
Executive Director

**UPMRA UPDATE**

Utah's 2023 Legislative Session ran its 45 days until March 3rd and true to Senate President Stuart Adams and House Speaker Brad Wilson's word at the beginning of the session, this was the third year in a row Utahns got an income tax cut.

Highlights from this year's legislative session include **HB 54, Tax Revisions** that provides (1) a reduction in the individual and corporate income tax rates from the current 4.85% to 4.65%; (2) an expansion in the income tax exemption for Social Security income; (3) an increase in the earned income tax credit that will increase from 15% of the federal credit to 20%; and (4) an addition to Utah's current taxpayer credit to provide an additional personal exemption for a dependent born during the tax year. These changes all have retrospective effect to January 1, 2023.

The House Majority Leader introduced and passed **HB301, which reduces the indexed portion of the State gas tax by 2 cents** until 2028, and shifts some of the tax burden to public electric vehicle charging stations, where a 12.5% charging fee is imposed. Residential and free charging is exempt. The bill also imposes a higher (\$7) registration fee on EV vehicles.

SB 173, Alcoholic Beverage Control Act Amendments has a provision dealing with the training of managers and retail staff of off-premise retail licensees prior to supervising others and prior to selling beer at retail.

Addressing alcohol sales to minors, the State Liquor Commission imposed harsher penalties for violations, starting with a notification provision for all off-premise retail violations.

Working with the UPMRA Executive Committee, UPMRA signed onto a letter from the Utah Business Coalition opposed to SJR 001, which proposed a ballot initiative for a constitutional amendment that would allow the Legislature to exempt up to 100% of the value of primary residential property from taxation, which would shift the burden to commercial real estate to replace that income for cities and counties. The UBC Letter prompted the resolution sponsor, Sen. Dan McCay to hold the bill for further study during the 2023 interim period.

DEQ/DERR News

DEQ and the Utah Underground Storage Tank taskforce met early this year and updated taskforce members on several issues, including the current status of compliance to the AST regulations, labor rate adjustments, and implementation of DAQ's gasoline tank vapor recovery requirements (Rule 307-328).

On Vapor Recovery, DAQ and DEQ are currently drafting a memorandum of understanding in order for DAQ to utilize DEQ's current tank inspection program and shift DAQ's required compliance and testing (every three years) to DEQ, since they have the expertise and an existing relationship with tank owners. This shift also reduces the chance of fines being imposed by DAQ if an order must be issued against a tank owner for non-compliance.

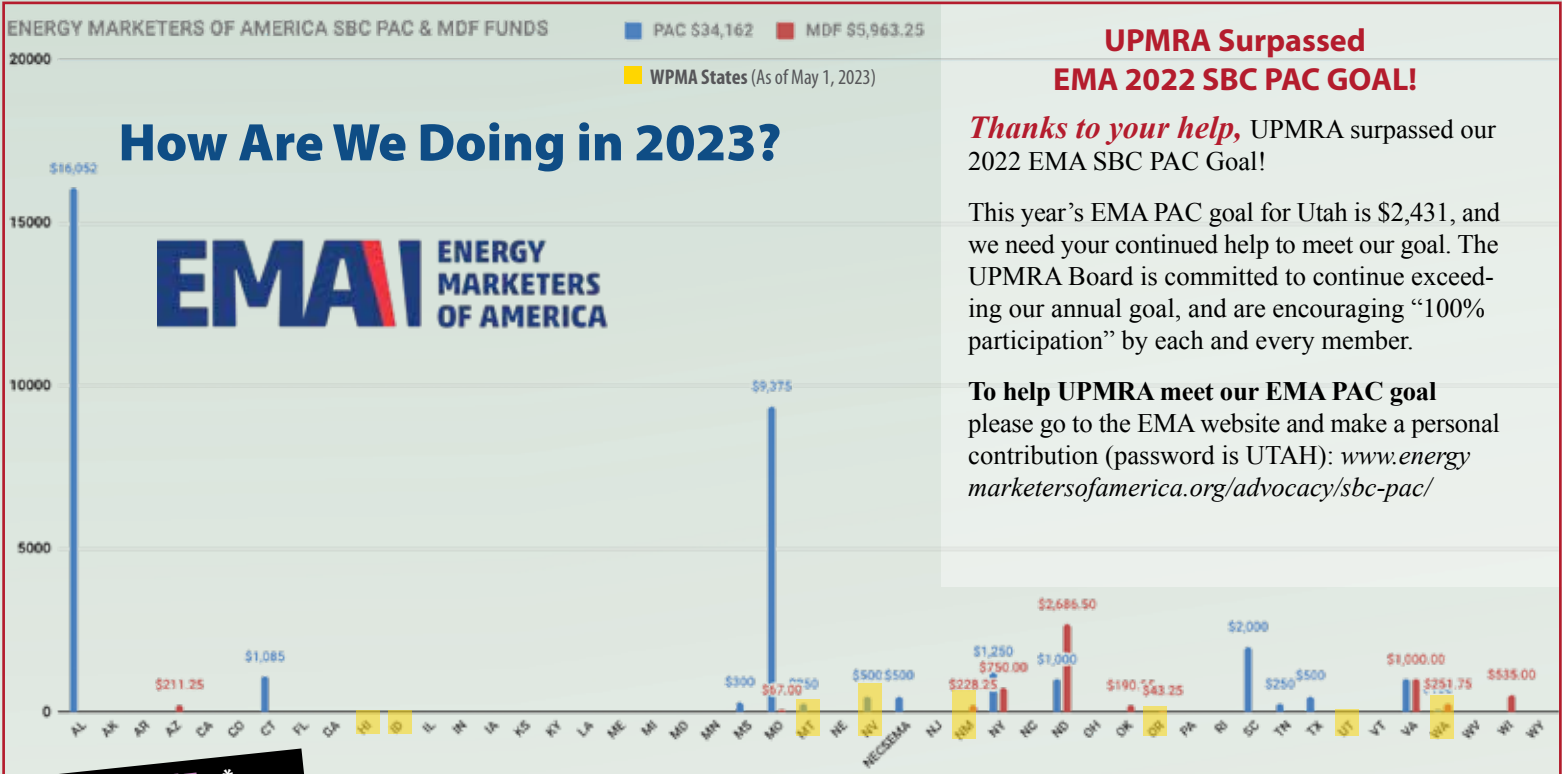
DEQ also announced that **as of November 2022, the PST Trust Fund's negative equity balance was eliminated**, and that the fund's equity balance is now approximately \$600-700,000 with a cash balance of \$28,445,900. At \$50 million, the current .065 cent fee (with rebates for upgraded tanks) would revert back to a quarter cent, but a big unknown is what adding ASTs will do to the fund balance.

EMA News

Washington Conference and Day on the Hill - May 10-12

Join UPMRA members at EMA's annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill in meetings with Utah's members of Congress (May 10-12) in Washington, DC at The Mayflower Hotel. This meeting is a great opportunity to network with other marketers from across the country!





UPMRA Surpassed EMA 2023 SBC PAC GOAL!

Thanks to your help, UPMRA surpassed our 2022 EMA SBC PAC Goal!

This year's EMA PAC goal for Utah is \$2,431, and we need your continued help to meet our goal. The UPMRA Board is committed to continue exceeding our annual goal, and are encouraging "100% participation" by each and every member.

To help UPMRA meet our EMA PAC goal please go to the EMA website and make a personal contribution (password is UTAH): www.energy-marketersofamerica.org/advocacy/sbc-pac/

Diesel Tax*
per gallon

2023	
State Tax	34.4¢
Federal Tax	24.4¢
Total Tax	58.8¢
County Sales Tax**	¼ cent per dollar

*59-13-301 and **59-12-2219 Utah Tax Code

Gasoline Tax*
per gallon

2023	
State Tax	34.4¢
Federal Tax	18.4¢
Total Tax	52.8¢

* 59-13-201 Utah Tax Code

Motor Fuel Tax Decals Available!

The State Legislature reduced fuel taxes by 2 cents, effective July 1, 2023.

There is no law requiring retailers to post fuel tax decals on their pumps, but the program was successful with members in 2015 and in 2019, so UPMRA printed new fuel tax decals for 2023.

Stickers available for counties with and without the additional ¼ cent sales tax, and white decals for retailers with contracts disallowing colored decals on pumps.

Order yours today by contacting Kim White at WPMA: kimw@wpma.com, or by calling 801-263-9762.

2023 UPMRA Convention & Trade Show

October 25-27 at the Hilton Garden Inn - St. George, UT

This year, UPMRA members and associates are coming together to celebrate our *Energy Pride - Today and Tomorrow!*

New for 2023 is a Jeep Safari on Wednesday afternoon and a *BigShots Golf Pickup Party* that evening with everyone welcome.

Thursday's speakers include Zions Bank Economist, Robert Spendlove - back by popular demand, and DEQ's Therron Blatter to answer all PST questions. ChargePoint will also be there to explain the advantages of Adding EV Charging to Retail Locations, and much more ...

Convention Golf is on Friday morning (Oct 27), at the recently remodeled South Gate Golf Course. Please go to the UPMRA home page <http://www.wpma.com/utah> to see the entire Convention and Trade Show schedule and register today.



Hope to see you in St. George this Fall!



UPMRA Convention & Trade Show
OCTOBER 25-27, 2023 • HILTON GARDEN INN