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NAMA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS — BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

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HAPPENINGS AFFECTING OUR INDUSTRY

NAMA Thanks DOE for Extension of Public Comment Period

"On behalf of the entire association, thanks to the Department of Energy for the extension they have granted on the public comment period for the framework document regarding energy conservation standards for refrigerated beverage vending machines," said NAMA's Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Eric Dell.

Kentucky Automatic Merchandising Council hosts annual meeting in Burkesville, Ky

The Kentucky Automatic Merchandising Council held its annual meeting at Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park in Burkesville, Ky. Along with the general session, the event included legislative education/updates, as well as a host of resort activities including a luau-style dinner for the members and their families.

Upon reviewing USDA's new 'Smart Snacks in School' nutrition standards, NAMA issued the following statement

We commend the USDA on its effort to improve childhood nutrition and to empower families to make healthier food choices by providing science-based information. As an association, we have had a long-standing commitment to providing nutrition information to consumers throughout the U.S. and beyond since the launch of our Balanced for Life program in 2005.

Ohio Automatic Merchandising Association hosted annual conference in Columbus

Members of the Ohio Automatic Merchandising Association gathered for the group's 54th annual conference June 27-29 in Columbus. This year's event, hosted at the Cambria Suites Polaris, included a golf outing, cocktail reception, an educational networking session and a general membership meeting.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing update: New \$10 note to begin circulation in 2020

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing recently provided an official update regarding its progress on meaningful access to U.S. Currency for Blind and Visually Impaired Individuals. Of specific importance to our industry was the Bureau's announcement that they project the initial circulation of redesigned currency with a tactile feature to be the \$10 Federal Reserve note. The new note will begin its circulation in 2020.

We want to serve you as best we can

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In an effort to better serve you, NAMA is conducting a Government Affairs survey to verify that we have clearly identified and are managing the issues that are most important to you. The survey is brief, and should only take a few minutes.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIR NEWS — FEDERAL & STATE

FEDERAL ISSUES

Death Tax Repeal Act of 2013

Rep. Kevin Brady introduced this bill (HR 2429) on June 19, 2013. It calls to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to retract estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes.

Takeout menus and the specter of red tape

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is calling for the FDA to impose new regulations for adding calorie labeling on restaurant menus. These regulations will drive up costs for consumers and small businesses without providing meaningful value to the public.

Farm Bill passed in House, without food stamp funding

House Republicans passed a Farm Bill on July 11 by dropping the funding for food stamps with a 216-208 vote. This vote gave Republican leaders a much-needed victory and made apparent the Republicans plan to make major reductions in food stamp money.

STATE ISSUES

Maine nears law on GMO Food Labeling

The bill (LD 718) that will require food producers to label products containing genetically modified ingredients received unanimous votes in the Maine Senate and House on July 9.

North Carolina introduces new bill to simplify the tax structure

The Tax Reduction Act (NC HB 998) calls to simplify the North Carolina tax structure and to reduce individual and business tax rates. This bill threatens to decrease the current exemption of sales tax afforded to bottled water sold in vending machines.

North Dakota Department of Health likely to increase vending machine license fees

A public hearing will be held on July 31 to discuss proposed amendments that call to change license fees for vending machines and other similar facilities.

Oregon bill to establish healthy vending task force dies

Proposed bill (HB 3403) to establish nutritional requirements for food and beverage items sold in public buildings was turned down on July 8.