

**KEEPING IN  
TOUCH WITH**

**NAMA**  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

A BI-WEEKLY NEWS AND  
INFORMATION SOURCE

## NAMA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS — BI-WEEKLY UPDATE



**Randy Smith, NAMA board member (L), Brian Gill, NYSAVA president (C) and Tim Sheridan lobbyist for NYSAVA (R) at the NYSAVA legislative fundraiser in White Plains, NY.**

### HAPPENINGS AFFECTING OUR INDUSTRY

#### **New York State Vending Association Legislative Fundraiser**

A New York State Automatic Vending Association event on Sept. 18 raised funds to support legislative efforts in New York, especially sales tax relief, to benefit all industry members in the state. Over 90 industry members participated in the 3rd Annual Herb Luckower Memorial Golf Outing in White Plains, named in memory of the long-time member who supported the state and national associations for many years.

#### **ELN Members Have a Leading Role at NAMA's Public Policy Conference**

Members of NAMA's Emerging Leaders Network (ELN) will participate in the association's Public Policy Conference Oct. 7-9 in Washington, D.C.

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## **NAMA Announces Release of Micro Market Operational Guidelines**

NAMA recently announced its new Micro Market Operational Guidelines manual is now available at a special introductory rate for members.

## **NAMA Government Affairs Division Participates in Food and Beverage Roundtable with Republican Conference Leadership**

Today, NAMA's Government Affairs Division participated in a Food and Beverage Roundtable with the Republican Conference Leadership in the U.S. Congress.

## **Fox's Tucker Carlson: Guest Speaker At NAMA's 'Advocacy In Action' Public Policy Conference**

NAMA's Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Eric Dell recently announced that Tucker Carlson, co-host of Fox and Friends Weekend, will serve as a special Guest Speaker at NAMA's Public Policy Conference to be held in Washington, D.C., in early October.

### **GOVERNMENT AFFAIR NEWS — FEDERAL & STATE**

#### **FEDERAL ISSUES**

## **Senator Calls for Finalization of FDA Guidance on GMO Labeling**

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts is calling for the Food and Drug Administration to finalize 12-year-old draft guidance in relation to the labeling of foods containing genetically modified organisms. In these guidelines, the food industry could comply with the guidance on a voluntary basis, which would not be as difficult as the mandatory GMO labeling requirements being sought by some consumer advocates.

## **Scientists Raise Issue of High Amount of Sugar in Fruit Drinks, Juices**

U.S. Scientists who raised concerns about high fructose corn syrup in soft drinks now cite that the amount of sugar in fruit drinks and fruit smoothies cause a health risk.

## **U.S. House Passes Bill to Cut Food-Stamp Spending**

The House of Representatives narrowly passed a bill curtailing spending on food stamps, setting up a battle with the Senate, which backs far smaller cuts. The vote was 217-210. The bill would cut nearly \$40 billion over a decade, or about 5 percent in expected spending, from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs.

#### **STATE ISSUES**

## **California: State Minimum Wage to Increase**

California legislators have approved an increase in the state's minimum wage from \$8 per hour to \$10 per hour by 2016. The \$2-per-hour increase will occur in stages over 18 months. The law will raise the current minimum wage of \$8 per hour to \$9 per hour on July 1, 2014. On Jan. 1, 2016, the wage will go up another dollar to \$10 per hour.

## **Colorado: Sugary Beverage Tax Question on Ballot in Telluride**

The Town Council of Telluride has approved a ballot question for November regarding imposition of an excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages sold in Telluride. If the measure is approved, sugary drinks would be taxed one cent per one fluid ounce.

### **District of Columbia: Hearing Scheduled on Workplace Wellness Act**

Members of the MD-DC Vending Association, along with representatives of the Beverage Association, will participate in a hearing on the D.C. Workplace Wellness Act of 2013. The stated purpose of the Act is to establish a workplace wellness policy for the District government; to provide for healthier options in vending machines under District control; and to permit a healthy retail food vendor in the John A. Wilson Building.

### **Massachusetts: Reverse Vending Machine Legislation**

An act relating to reverse vending machine bottle and can deposit redemption is in the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy and is eligible for Executive Session.

### **New Hampshire: Subcommittee Begins Work on Labeling Bill**

On Jan. 3, 2013, HB660, requiring the Labeling of Genetically Engineered Foods & Agricultural Commodities, was introduced to the New Hampshire State legislature. The bill establishes that after July 1, 2014, any human or animal food offered for retail sale will be considered misbranded if not properly labeled as a genetically engineered food. The bill would require labels on any food items produced entirely or partly through genetic engineering. The subcommittee began their work on Aug. 13; additional Subcommittee work sessions were scheduled in September. The Subcommittee is expected to make their recommendations to the Environment and Agriculture Committee in October. The policy committee, the Environment & Agriculture Committee, then has until Nov. 22, 2013 to make a decision to recommend the bill as written, make any changes by way of an amendment, or recommend that the bill be killed.

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