



April 2019 Advocacy Roundup



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July 15-17, 2019



While The NAMA Show in Las Vegas was the highlight of April, the NAMA Government Affairs team continued efforts across the country, working to promote and protect the industry at all levels of government. Below are some highlights from NAMA's advocacy work in April.

Introducing NAMA's Newest Team Member:



Mike Goscinski joined NAMA on April 16th as Director of State and Federal Affairs. He will oversee day-to-day legislative and regulatory advocacy work for the association. Prior to joining NAMA, Mike worked for the American Bakers Association as Director of Government Relations, providing comprehensive legislative outreach to Members of Congress on issues impacting the wholesale baking industry.

Prior to joining ABA, Mike served as a Legislative and Policy Aid for Congressman Leonard Lance (R-NJ-07).

Mike holds a B.A. in Government & Politics, and Speech Communications from St. John's University in New York, New York. He is a native of Bayville, NJ and currently resides in Washington, D.C.

Federal Issues:

[ENERGY STAR](#)

NAMA continues to work with the ENERGY STAR program to provide feedback on new proposed specifications for vending machines. The proposed changes to for refrigerated vending machines would make it more difficult for operators to meet the necessary specifications in order to qualify for the ENERGY STAR program.

[Click here](#) to read NAMA's comments

[Click here](#) for more information on the proposed specifications

[Food and Drug Administration and Micro markets](#)

NAMA is leading an effort with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to define micro markets into the Federal Food Code. The NAMA Government Affairs team met with FDA staff in April to ensure that language defining micro markets will be included on this year's update of the federal food code. This will provide national clarity and uniformity for operators while helping promote food safety.

State Issues:

[Arizona](#)

The Arizona Automatic Merchandising Council (AAMC) held its annual convenience services day and legislative breakfast in April. Representative Walter Blackman (R- Snowflake, AZ) addressed attendees and discussed key legislative issues pending in Arizona, including minimum wage laws. As part of the convenience services day, the association arranged to have vending machines in both houses and treated legislators to beverages and snacks throughout the day. AAMC members met individually with their representatives to discuss their businesses and issues facing the convenience services industry.



Members of AAMC during their annual convenience services day in Phoenix

California

This month, the California Automatic Vendors Council (CAVC) members successfully halted several bills related to sugar-sweetened beverages. Legislation imposing a .02 cents per ounce tax on sugar-sweetened beverages was pulled from consideration and placed on a delayed two-year calendar, allowing more time for the industry to make its voice heard. In addition, CAVC members were able to secure an amendment excluding micro markets from a bill prohibiting the sale of sugar-sweetened beverages near checkout counters. The bill was subsequently pulled as well and will also be a two-year bill. CAVC will continue to oppose a legislation requiring health warning labels on sugar-sweetened beverages and a prohibiting couponing and discounts on sugar-sweetened beverages.

NAMA updated members of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on the progress being made toward the placement of vending machines refrigerated with A3 refrigerants such as R-290 in wake of the state ban on machines using hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) January 1, 2019.

Florida

Florida held its annual state convenience services day in April, where NAMA staff and Florida Members met with a dozen legislative offices on industry concerns, laying a foundation for future work to establish a lower registration fee for micro markets; which would potentially save members at least \$175 per market location annually.



NAMA and AMAF met with House Commerce Chairman Mike La Rosa

Mississippi

After the Mississippi Automatic Merchandising Association (MAMA) led the way on passage of House Bill 1206, Governor Phil Bryant hosted MAMA members for a ceremonial signing in early April. The legislation clearly exempts micro markets and vending machines from the State Department of Health regulations, resulting in cost savings of hundreds of dollars per vending or micro market location annually for operators.



Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant held a bill signing ceremony with several local members for House Bill 1206

Oregon

Oregon held its annual convenience services day in April. Members of the Northwest Automatic Vending Association (NAVA) met with their Senators and Representatives to share concerns on current tax proposals that are being considered at the state level and the impact they would have on their businesses. Members also distributed snack bags to the 30 Senators' and 60 Representatives' offices.



Members of NAVA during their convenience services day in Salem

Oklahoma

Last month, NAMA and the Oklahoma Vendors Association (OVA) successfully advocated for the passage of HB 1055, defining unattended food establishments or “micro markets,” and setting a reasonable fee structure in line with surround states. OVA members met with legislators during its lobby day to educate them on the importance of passing the bill in order to create certainty for operators and health officials in their classification.



Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt

Pennsylvania

The Tri-State Automatic Merchandising Council is working with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to define micro markets and put a licensing system in place. This will provide clarity and potentially save operators from very high fees per micro market location.

Texas

Members of the Texas Merchandise Vending Association (TMVA) testified before the House Ways and Means committees on proposed legislation that would increase the sales tax in Texas. TMVA members testified that an increase in sales tax poses a unique problem to vending machine operators since all taxes must be built into the price of the item sold and that price adjustments must be made in nickel increments. Thanks to their efforts, consideration of the proposed increases have been put on hold until the Legislatures 2021 session.

Washington

A bill was passed in Washington this session that would restrict the refrigerants that can be used in vending machines after January of 2020. NAMA and the Northwest Automatic Vending Association (NAVA) were vocal in advocating for an extension to the compliance date for the vending industry as it works toward a solution to the placement issues for R-290 machines This prompting the Department of Ecology to begin work on an emergency clause that will extend the compliance date and allow the vending industry time to resolve the issues with the use of alternative refrigerants, including changes to ASHRAE and UL standards.

Wisconsin

In April, a bill was introduced in Wisconsin to prohibit pre-inspection licensing fees for micro markets, this bill would ensure a streamlined process for defining micro markets. NAMA continues to keep an eye on this legislation to help usher its passage.

Record Number of Convenience Services Days at State Capitols:

NAMA has already held almost 20 convenience services days in 2019. Due to the increased efforts by advocacy organizations at the state level, NAMA encourages members and state councils to remain involved in state advocacy efforts. [You can review lobby day dates and register here.](#)

Thank you for actively participating in the industry's advocacy efforts. Advocacy successes are not possible without your active participation.

Don't Forget to Register!



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JULY 15-17, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Questions or Concerns?

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