



New Jersey Gasoline, C-Store, Automotive Association (NJGCA)

(Formerly New Jersey Gasoline Retailers Association)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Weights and Measures rightfully goes after octane cheats

*NJGCA applauds efforts to protect consumers and the small business community;
Association congratulates Members for running honest establishment, avoiding fines.*

Sal Risalvato, Executive Director of the New Jersey Gasoline, Convenience, Automotive Association (NJGCA), made the following remarks regarding today's news that the Office of Weights and Measures (OWM) charged 14 gasoline stations for selling gasoline with lower-than-advertised octane levels:

"I'd like to properly congratulate the professionals at OWM for their most recent efforts in protecting consumers and the small business community. Any retailer who knowingly and deliberately deceives the public by trying to pass off lower octane gasoline as premium fuel deserves what's coming to them", Risalvato said.

In a two-week operation, state and county OWM officials visited 325 stations throughout New Jersey to test for octane violations. Fourteen retailers were found to have been selling gasoline below their advertised octane rating, in violation of the state's Motor Fuels Act.

"It always upsets me when I hear that someone in our industry gets caught doing something like this. Whenever they do, it pulls a dark cloud over the entire industry. Though I will always support valid and justified charges against anyone who knowingly cheats their customers, all too often honest small businesses get unfairly lumped in with the guilty. In this instance, I'm hopeful that decent station owners won't get undeservedly branded in the process", said Risalvato.

“Over the last five years, NJGCA has cooperated and collaborated with OWM on any number of issues. We have worked together to get essential information to our members on a host of topics on how to stay in compliance. Today, the fruit of those efforts are unmistakably clear: Of the 14 stations charged with deceiving the public, **none** were NJGCA Members! I couldn’t be more pleased” exclaimed Risalvato.

Risalvato explained, “I’m very proud of our members, not only for operating honest businesses, but for actively policing the industry. I have encouraged our members to point out ANY station – member and non-member alike – that seems to be using deceptive practices to compete unfairly. The reasons are simple: Any retailer who tries to cheat the public is harming the reputation of honest small station owners everywhere while gaining an unfair advantage against a competitor. When that happens, they unjustly compete for patrons and hurt honest establishments that play by the rules. That’s unacceptable! For these reasons and more, we will always work with OWM to route out any dishonest business owner who deliberately tries to hurt the public”.

“When small business owners knowingly behave dishonestly, consumers lose, competitors lose, and the public trust is violated. Thankfully OWM is staffed by professionals who work hard to prevent such conduct; I congratulate them on their diligence. ” Risalvato concluded.

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