



Federal News

- Congress now has until March 8 to provide funding for the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, and the Food and Drug Administration before they run out of money. [A partial shutdown of the government will occur otherwise.](#) The remaining federal agencies will shut down if Congress doesn't approve new funding by March 22.
- U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) [led a letter to DOT Secretary Buttigieg and Department of Energy Secretary Granholm](#) expressing concerns about implementation of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program and the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) program. NEVI and CFI – created and funded with \$7.5 billion in the 2021 infrastructure bill – aim to increase the number of electric and hydrogen vehicle charging and refueling stations. Rodgers criticizes that only eight new stations have been produced as of December 15, 2023.

State News

- In the last newsletter, we reported about [a harmful bill](#) in Oklahoma. ASA launched an action to stop the bill from becoming law. Oklahomans can [CLICK HERE TO SEND A LETTER](#) to their state senator and representative that explains why they should oppose SB 1853. Share it with any repairers in Oklahoma too!
- [Florida Senate Bill 774](#) defines a “towing-storage operator” as an entity that “regularly engages in the business of...storing [vehicles].” We believe many repairers could fit that description. The bill requires the Florida Division of Highway Patrol to set maximum storage rates for vehicles towed at the division’s request. A towing-storage operator may only charge vehicle owners storage and certain administrative fees specified in law. It also creates new obligations for the storer, including that it must wait an additional seven days before it can sell a vehicle held on lien. SB 774 has passed in committees, and it could receive a vote in the full senate soon.
- Tesla is not considered a motor vehicle manufacturer in Nebraska because state law says a manufacturer sells its vehicles through dealerships. [Legislative Bill 891](#) would change the definition to also include automakers that sell vehicles directly to customers. Tesla expressed concern that LB 891 would force it to close service centers in the state because only dealerships, not the manufacturer, may operate service centers. Tesla and the Nebraska New Car & Truck Dealers Association have reportedly agreed to an amended bill that allows the Tesla service center to continue operations. That amendment language hasn't been made public yet.

Other useful links!

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