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THE
TOWN TALK

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

ALEXANDRIA-PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA

Diesel emergency declared

Landry signs order to aid farmers and harvesters

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry has declared a state of emergency to issue an executive order allowing farmers and timber harvesters to use dyed diesel as the price of the fuel reaches record highs during the Iran war.

“We’re not going to sit on the sidelines while Louisiana farmers are paying record prices to harvest the crops that feed our families and support our economy,” Landry said after issuing the order Sept. 23. “We have an opportunity to provide immediate relief, and that’s exactly what we’re doing.”

Dyed diesel is cheaper than regular diesel because it is exempt from state and federal highway excise taxes and generally allowed only to be used on off-road equipment like tractors.

Landry’s executive order will allow farmers to use dyed diesel throughout the fall harvest season until Oct. 22.

Louisiana Farm Bureau President Richard Fontenot applauded the move as the state’s average diesel price tops a record \$6, more than twice the cost of the previous season.

“Anything helps, especially as we work to get the crops out of the fields,” Fontenot said Sept. 23 in an interview with USA Today Network. “I’m appreciative of the governor’s efforts to give us any relief during this time.”

Landry has also advocated for a temporary ban on American diesel exports as a way to lower prices. President Trump endorsed an export ban on Sept. 22.

“An export ban would increase our domestic supply of diesel and temporarily lower prices,” Landry said Sept. 23 in an interview with USA Today Network.

Industry advocates have said a ban won’t lower prices.

Greg Hilburn covers state politics for the USA TODAY Network of Louisiana. Follow him on Twitter @GregHilburn1.



President Donald Trump and Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry attend an event with Hyundai executives in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, DC, March 24, 2025. GETTY IMAGES

Oil industry pushes back on Trump’s plan for temporary ban on diesel exports

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

President Trump has joined Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry in supporting a temporary ban on diesel exports as way to lower all-time high prices, though oil and gas industry officials say the policy could make prices for the fuel even more expensive.

Landry began calling for an export ban last week on various traditional and social media outlets as prices soar because of the war with Iran.

“Right now a record amount of diesel is going to Europe and Americans are subsidizing Europe’s problems,” Landry said Sept. 21 on CNBC. “Europe has done nothing to help America in either one of those two positions, and yet they are sucking the energy out of America and

making American citizens pay for it.” Trump endorsed the idea advanced by Landry and other Republicans Sept. 22 while attending the United National General Assembly meetings in New York.

“Well, I’ve called for that, too,” Trump said. “I’ve said, ‘Let’s not send out the diesel.’ We make a lot of diesel.”

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Residents rally to stop migrant family facility

Melinda Martinez
Alexandria Town Talk
USA TODAY NETWORK

At the “Community Education Event to Stop Child Detention in Alexandria,” CENLA Activism organizer Erin Tracy told attendees that the England Economic and Industrial Development District Board of Commissioners is scheduled to meet at 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, in the EEIDD boardroom at 1611 Arnold Dr. in Alexandria and encouraged them to attend.

In recent months, opponents of ICE-related activities at England Airpark, including a migrant family facility under construction, have regularly



In recent months, opponents of ICE-related activities at England Airpark, including a migrant family facility under construction, have regularly attended EEIDD board meetings to voice concerns.

MELINDA MARTINEZ/THE TOWN TALK

LA Christian to host Walking through October

Melissa Gregory
Alexandria Town Talk
USA TODAY NETWORK

The registration deadline is Oct. 1 for those wishing to participate in Louisiana Christian University’s fifth annual fall fitness challenge.

The challenge was made possible through a \$30,000 grant from The Rapides Foundation, according to a news release.

“Walking through October” is a local Step Up Cenla program that aims to help residents become more physically active, reads the release. The program runs through Oct. 31.

“The program offers fitness challenges and educational workshops on physical activity,” it reads. “The goal is

to make physical activity the norm in Central Louisiana.”

It’s a virtual program in which participants track their daily steps and submit them online weekly. There are three categories — individual in age groups, student athlete and team. The top participants will receive awards, and there will be weekly drawings for gift cards for those who submit their steps each week.

Individual winners will be determined by the highest step counts within age groups. For the team category, results will be calculated using the average step count, or total steps divided by the number of team members. Teams can have up to five members.

To sign up, visit <https://tiny-url.com/55mey2zv>.

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