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Motor Vehicle Suppliers Applaud ‘American Manufacturing Initiative’

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA) applauds the “American Manufacturing Initiative,” a comprehensive agenda to revitalize the domestic manufacturing industry and respond to the loss of millions of U.S. manufacturing jobs, announced here today by Sens. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), and supported by Michigan Democrats – including Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, Rep. John Dingell, Rep. John Conyers, Rep. Dale Kildee, Rep. Sander Levin, Rep. Bart Stupak and Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick.

Levin discussed the initiative at the fourth annual MEMA Legislative Summit, attended by more than 130 top executives of automotive aftermarket, heavy duty and original equipment suppliers. He made his comments following the presentation of the “Joseph M. Magliochetti Industry Champion” award, which honored both Levin and George Voinovich (R-Ohio).

“The ‘American Manufacturing Initiative’ offers needed aid to not only the motor vehicle parts supplier industry, but our country’s entire manufacturing base,” said Bob McKenna, president and CEO of MEMA. “We will work with Sens. Levin and Stabenow in their efforts to move it forward.”

The “American Manufacturing Initiative” (AMI) would bring together government, private industry and academia in a partnership aimed at turning around the manufacturing sector of the U.S. economy. It focuses on six areas:

- manufacturing incentives;
- trade policies, including currency manipulation and barriers to U.S. products;
- health care support;
- advanced vehicle development;
- fuel conservation and biofuels, and
- Department of Defense initiatives.

Through major government investment in the development of advanced technology vehicles and vigorous promotion of the use of alternative fuels, the AMI would stimulate manufacturing job creation in America, reduce dependence on foreign oil and help the environment by reducing greenhouse gases and emissions.

Levin urged attendees at the MEMA Legislative Summit to keep manufacturing on the agenda during the upcoming elections. “I urge you to press candidates on their positions on manufacturing. Ask them what steps they would take to support U.S. manufacturing,” he said.

The summit, which concluded today with a presentation by Dennis Fitzgibbons, majority staff director, Energy and Commerce Committee, began on May 16 with a keynote address by Dave McCurdy, president, Alliance of Automotive Manufacturers. The program also included a presentation on health care reform by Stephen Northrup, senior government relations director, Arent Fox, and congressional delegation visits by MEMA members.

MEMA (www.mema.org) represents more than 700 motor vehicle product manufacturers with nearly 12,000 U.S. plant locations and 783,000 workers. Together, these companies keep the U.S. automotive and truck industry supplied with the components that enable it to produce some 17 million vehicles annually and keep the 232 million vehicles on the road with replacement products and services. MEMA supports its members through its three market segment associations: Automotive Aftermarket Suppliers Association (AASA), Heavy Duty Manufacturers Association (HDMA) and Original Equipment Suppliers Association (OESA).

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