

**For immediate release
June 27, 2007
MEMA PR 16-07**

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Motor Vehicle Parts Suppliers Applaud Senate Action Defeating Card Check Bill

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. – The Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association applauded the Senate’s defeat of H.R. 800/S. 1041, the “Employee Free Choice Act” or “Card Check” bill on June 26.

“Yesterday in Washington the motion to proceed on the Employee Free Choice Act failed in the Senate stopping Card Check legislation during this session of Congress. MEMA is pleased that Card Check has been stopped and wishes to thank its many friends in the Senate who opposed this bill,” said Bob McKenna, president and CEO of MEMA. “We also wish to thank our many member companies from across the country who contacted their elected representatives opposing Card Check. The secret ballot in the workplace has been protected – for now. Card Check will be an issue again in 2008 and we must be prepared to make our case against it,” he added.

“Major automotive suppliers and their sub-suppliers are under tremendous financial and operational pressure,” McKenna added. “Card Check would have done nothing to resolve the industry’s problems and would have made things much worse. It would have been a lose-lose for workers, the companies in our industry and the U.S. economy.”

H.R. 800, the Employee Free Choice Act, also known as “Card Check” would have stripped away a worker’s right to a federally supervised, private ballot election during union organizing drives and make their vote public. It also contained a provision that mandates compulsory, binding arbitration on the employer and the employees as part the collective bargaining process if an agreement cannot be reached within the first 120 days of negotiations. The provision would have a third party, government official impose the terms of a labor contract that are binding upon both parties, even if one or both parties find those terms unacceptable.

With the bill’s defeat, the current laws and regulations providing votes by secret ballot conducted under Federal supervision by the National Labor Relations Board remain intact.

“The current laws and regulations providing votes by secret ballot have served workers in our industry, their employers and the overall economy well,” McKenna said. “The Card Check process proposed in the EFCA would have ruined the fairness and balance delivered in the current system and instead subject employees to increased risk of intimidation, coercion and peer pressure. We commend the senators for defeating this harmful legislation,” he added.

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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