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Suppliers Thank Congress for Direct Loan Program and Anti-Counterfeiting Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Bob McKenna, president and CEO of the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA), applauded the House and Senate for their action in two important issues for suppliers: funding a provision authorized in last year’s Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) and passage of important anti-counterfeiting legislation. Section 136 of EISA authorizes direct loans and other programs to provide U.S. investment in reequipping, expanding, or establishing a manufacturing facility for the production of new advanced technology vehicles and equipment. Passage of the PRO-IP bill strengthens the nation’s trademark and copyright laws while initiating an important study requested by MEMA on future needs of manufacturers concerning IP protection.

“These two actions demonstrate that Congress has heard the message of the supplier industry and has acted to address two of MEMA’s key objectives. The direct loan program will make loans available to component manufacturers as well as auto manufacturers and recognizes the essential role suppliers play in the development of advanced technology vehicles,” McKenna said. He also urged lawmakers to give the bill immediately to the Department of Energy to draft regulations to implement the program.

McKenna said the loans would help auto manufacturers and parts suppliers add new facilities, convert operations, and assist the industry in exploring a wider range of options to meet the new fuel economy standards, – including light weight materials, dual clutch transmissions, key enablers for hybrids, plug-in hybrids, electric, clean diesel, fuel cell, turbo gas, and turbo diesel vehicles – and to develop components required for and compatible with the use of cellulosic and non-carbon fuel sources.

“Additionally, the anti-counterfeiting legislation makes important strides in addressing protection of our intellectual property and will ensure that the unique needs of manufacturers are examined more closely,” McKenna continued. “Suppliers will now have the opportunity to address specific manufacturing concerns like trade dress and counterfeiting of patented products.” McKenna added that the study would be led by the Government Accountability Office which will be required to recommend changes to current law to Congress.

According to recent studies, motor vehicle suppliers employ 783,100 in the United States and contribute to 4.5 million domestic jobs. Suppliers provide 70 percent of the content of U.S.-built cars and trucks.

Suppliers manufacture the parts and technology used in the production of more than 11 million new cars and trucks produced each year, and the aftermarket products necessary to repair and maintain more than 247 million vehicles on the road today. For more information on the motor vehicle parts supplier industry, please visit www.mema.org or www.automotivesupplier.org.

About MEMA

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). For more information on the motor vehicle parts supplier industry, please visit www.mema.org or www.automotivesupplier.org.