

Warranty survey conducted, NAEDA meets with industry partners



This "Action Alert" icon will be displayed whenever action steps exist to help your voice be heard on topical issues. Dealers can expect to see alerts in all forms of NAEDA communications.

Manufacturer Relations		
ISSUE	ACTION SUMMARY	NAEDA'S POSITION
Warranty Survey	NAEDA and its 18 affiliated dealer associations conducted a warranty survey in December. More than 1,300 dealers responded. The survey was conducted to determine the extent of issues related to warranty reimbursement.	Information collected during the survey will be used to develop discussion points with manufacturers that were rated by dealers.
Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association Meeting	NAEDA, the SouthWestern Association (SWA) and the Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association (FEMA) met in St. Louis. NAEDA and SWA extended a hand of friendship to Vernon Schmidt, FEMA's new executive vice president. We discussed the effect the lack of credit availability is having on members of NAEDA and FEMA. We also discussed warranty, buyback legislation, prepayments, and other issues of mutual interest. We agreed to meet more frequently and work toward improving cooperation whenever possible to better serve the interests of NAEDA and FEMA members. Another meeting is scheduled for early February in Omaha, Neb.	NAEDA supports discussions where the industry can act as one on issues important to dealers, manufacturers and others in the equipment distribution channel.

Government Relations		
ISSUE	ACTION SUMMARY	NAEDA'S POSITION
Equipment Industry Meeting	NAEDA met with representatives from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), Associated Equipment Distributors (AED), Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association (FEMA), and American Rental Association (ARA) in Washington, D.C., to discuss congressional issues of mutual interest. The groups often collaborate on issues that may have an effect on their respective members. Topics of discussion included: equipment depreciation legislation, tax credits for clean diesel fuels, the need for a continued push for infrastructure investment, safety legislation, improved access to credit, job creation initiatives, health care, the importance of educating the industry about Tier IV changes, the Consumer Financial Protection Agency Act of 2009, and the potential for coordinated activities in Canada.	NAEDA supports bringing the industry together to discuss issues important to dealers, manufacturers and others in the equipment distribution channel.
State Agriculture and Rural Leaders Association (SARL) Meeting	At the time of publication, it is expected that NAEDA will participate in the 8th annual meeting of SARL in January in Orlando, Fla. This is the only national meeting of provincial and state legislators with agriculture and rural development responsibilities.	NAEDA supports this type of meeting to give provincial and state legislative leaders information about the equipment industry and its reliance on sound, science-based ag and rural policies in Canada and the U.S. For information about SARL, visit www.agandruralleaders.org .
NAEDA 2010 Legislative Fly-In	NAEDA's 2010 Fly-In to Washington, D.C., is scheduled for April 14-15, 2010.	Dealers are encouraged to attend the Fly-In to meet with their congressional representatives and make them aware of the issues that are important to their dealerships and employees. Don't fail to take advantage of putting a face – yours – on the issues American business owners are talking about. Additional details can be obtained by calling NAEDA at 636/349-5000.

A companion reference is regularly updated in the Dealer Advocacy Center at www.naeda.com.

NAEDA notes

Tough issues demand tough decisions about climate change

According to the December issue of *U.S. Chamber Magazine*, business owners should brace themselves for more lawsuits tied to climate change. Two federal court decisions handed down last fall suggest it could become easier to bring climate change litigation against companies.

In September, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit in New York City allowed a coalition of eight states, New York City and environmental groups to sue coal-burning utilities over climate change. A month later, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in New Orleans ruled that residents and landowners along the Gulf Coast in Mississippi could seek relief from oil and gas companies, utilities and other companies for damages on the grounds that Hurricane Katrina was the result of global warming.

While both decisions will be appealed, the courts seem open to lowering the bar and raising the potential for establishing precedents and a new wave of lawsuits against businesses for their greenhouse gas emissions. Add to the court rulings the decision by the U.S. EPA to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, cap and trade legislation passed by the U.S. House and the mixed outcomes from the Copenhagen climate meeting, and you have the makings of a perfect storm against businesses.

With the economy beginning to show some life, these rulings and legislation could slow down economic growth and prevent businesses from expanding and increasing employment, domestic production and trade. Government can help with the hardships of unemployment. However, to improve the labor market, Congress must stimulate economic growth and regulate what effect these issues and actions will have on businesses.

Politically, these are tough issues that demand tough decisions. There are strong proponents and opponents on both sides of the aisle concerning greenhouse gases and global warming. Congress and the administration have the ultimate responsibility to make sure businesses have the resources to survive and contribute to economic growth in this unsure world of climate change, global warming and greenhouse gas emissions regulations.

To put these decisions or guidance in the hands of a few delegates at a climate meeting or the U.S. EPA would seem to guarantee acceptance of a plan with many flaws and even more unanswered questions. We need to ensure sufficient energy supplies for businesses and, if we replace fossil fuel energy, it should be at an affordable cost. We simply don't have the luxury – or the economy – to accept rulings and legislation that could lead to more job losses, increased energy costs and add more burdens to the businesses that support our current way of life.