

NAEDA Advocacy Update



A monthly summary of ASSOCIATION PRIORITY ISSUES

The NAEDA Advocacy Update is a quick reference about association priority issues. A companion reference is regularly updated in the Dealer Advocacy Center at www.naeda.com.







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	SUMMARY	NAEDA'S POSITION	STATUS
 Case IH & Case Construction Meetings	The Industry Relations Task Force (IRTF) is meeting with representatives of Case IH and Case Construction in November. These meetings relate directly to the IRTF's mission to communicate dealer issues to manufacturers and/or the organizations that represent the manufacturers – and to communicate the manufacturers' perspectives back to dealers.	The IRTF is continuing its periodic discussions with Case officials about various dealer issues.	Ongoing.
 OPE Yellow Pages Advertising	Outdoor power equipment (OPE) dealers face the dilemma of advertising under multiple phone directory headings. NAEDA's OPE Dealer Council determined through its Yellow Pages Subcommittee that dealers believe they would benefit from an industry effort, including manufacturers and distributors, to reduce the number of headings by consolidating advertising under a single heading such as "Outdoor Power Equipment." The subcommittee recently contacted the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) to enlist critical manufacturer support for this effort.	NAEDA supports reducing the number of OPE-related headings in phone directories. Advertising expenditures could be used more efficiently with fewer headings.	Ongoing.

Government Relations

ISSUE	SUMMARY	NAEDA'S POSITION	STATUS
 Private Property Rights	The U.S. Supreme Court has opened the door to unintended uses of the power of eminent domain. Under current interpretation, it is possible for public entities to take possession of private property, transfer ownership of that same property into the hands of other private property owners/developers for their own commercial development and gain.	NAEDA supports legislation that would prohibit federal, state or local economic development assistance for any entity that abuses the power of eminent domain to benefit private property owners/developers.	Ongoing.
 25 x '25 Alliance	The 25 x '25 Alliance held its second Implementation Plan meeting recently with 123 organizations represented. Five implementation working groups – Renewable Fuels, Renewable Electricity, Extended Uses and Applications, Natural Resources and Wildlife Habitat, and Outreach and Education – refined their proposals. The Alliance is targeting the start of the next Congress to have a final Implementation Plan Report drafted.	Supporting coalition efforts.	Mike Williams, vice president of government relations for NAEDA, is serving on the Alliance's biofuels subcommittee.
 Tort Reform	NAEDA supports the efforts of individuals, associations, insurance companies and others to solve the increasing problem of cost and availability of liability insurance coverage. These efforts should protect businesses, property, landowners and tenants from frivolous liability claims, medical malpractice claims, and place limitations on attorneys' contingency fees.	Legislation should modify current law to encourage liability litigation be filed and commence in the jurisdiction where a service or product is provided or in a plaintiff's official domicile.	Ongoing.
 Renewable Energy	NAEDA attended the Advancing Renewable Energy conference held in October in St. Louis, Mo. The departments of Energy (DOE) and Agriculture (USDA) hosted the event focusing on the latest news and status of renewable energy options. (See more about the conference on page 24.) Renewable energy topics included ethanol and biodiesel, both of which have agricultural implications.	NAEDA supports the development of a national energy policy that defines the energy needs of the nation. NAEDA's energy policy is available in the Dealer Advocacy Center at www.naeda.com .	Ongoing.



Biodiesel Plant Capacity Expansion

U.S. biodiesel production is rapidly expanding. There are 65 biodiesel plants in operation, with a potential total production capacity of 395 million gallons. Another 50 biodiesel plants are under construction. An estimated 75 million gallons of biodiesel was sold in the U.S. in 2005, up from 25 million gallons in 2004, 20 million gallons in 2003 and 15 million gallons in 2002.

Fast Tractor Legislation

Ohio's proposed fast tractor legislation (Ohio HB 627) is the result of two tickets issued to a single custom harvester in the Wooster, Ohio, area. Herb Homan, captain with the Ohio Highway Patrol, reports he was involved in both tickets issued and both times tractors were clearly exceeding the approved 25 mph limit.

LIFO

LIFO came under attack in a 17-page article published in *Tax Notes*. Written by Professor George Plesko, attorney Edward Kleinbard and student Corey Goodman, the article calls for repeal of LIFO, calling it a "tax holiday." NAEDA supports efforts of a LIFO coalition to maintain the LIFO option. Attack articles, such as the *Tax Notes* piece, are a reminder LIFO is not a guaranteed accounting option and must be defended to be maintained.

Production Tax Credit

A short-term Production Tax Credit (PTC) has stymied commercial wind energy development. The PTC was most recently approved in 2005 and is set to expire at the end of 2007. If the PTC could be extended for a longer period of time, five years as some suggest, it would alleviate the industry's "boom 'n' bust" cycle and allow it to attract more investment and spur it on to become a larger player in electricity generation.

Trade

President Bush signed the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement into law in September. NAEDA actively supported this agreement... NAEDA also supports similar free trade agreements with Peru and Vietnam, each of which must clear individual hurdles in Congress.