

NAEDA board considers legislative priorities

NAEDA's board of directors considered several legislative priorities during its March meeting at Scottsdale, Ariz. The discussion included health care, immigration and taxes. Look for updates about these priorities and others published in the *NAEDA Update*, *NAEDA Equipment Dealer*, and affiliated association publications. NAEDA policies may be reviewed in the 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	ACTION SUMMARY	NAEDA'S POSITION
2008 Dealer-Manufacturer Relations Survey	Nearly 1,400 dealers completed the <i>2008 Dealer-Manufacturer Relations Survey</i> . Many ranked up to four manufacturers in 10 categories, which resulted in approximately 2,400 total rankings of 50 to 70 brands of agricultural, light industrial or outdoor power equipment.	Information from the <i>2008 Dealer-Manufacturer Relations Survey</i> will be used by NAEDA's Industry Relations Task Force to plan its discussions with equipment manufacturers.
Shortline Warranty Claim Processing	The Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association (FEMA) is encouraging its members to post their warranty policies on the Shortline Warranty Claim Processing System. NAEDA's rollout to equipment dealers is tentatively scheduled for May 1. NAEDA, FEMA and the Farm Equipment Wholesalers Association (FEWA) are partners in the development of the system.	NAEDA believes the warranty claim processing system will improve the efficiency and accuracy of processing claims as well as provide up-to-date information about the warranty policies of participating manufacturers.

Government Relations		
ISSUE	POLICY UNDER REVIEW	NAEDA'S POSITION
Health Care Coverage	NAEDA and many of its affiliated associations are long-time supporters of health care reforms, including passage of legislation to restore association plans. This would permit bona fide association plans to receive and provide the same price advantages to individuals and small companies as large corporations. Current NAEDA policy supports the use of Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) as part of reforms.	NAEDA will continue its membership with The Association Health Care Coalition (TAHC). The association's board also encourages other NAEDA affiliates to support the TAHC. The board will continue to review current policy and determine if the Health Care Coverage policy needs further revision in the wake of the Senate's failure to bring association health plan legislation to a vote.
Immigration	NAEDA's board has supported a guest worker program that would provide labor for U.S. agriculture, noting this type of program would allow for daily commuters as well as housing workers in areas where commuting is not practical. Guest workers are critical to food production and processing in the United States and equally critical to businesses that provide professional services in which agricultural, industrial and outdoor power equipment is used.	As the line between illegal immigrants and legal immigrants has become blurred in popular discussion, NAEDA's board and association committees will review current policy to determine if the immigration policy needs research and revision.
Taxes	NAEDA supports the permanent repeal of the estate tax, known as the "death tax." NAEDA further supports the continuation of a step-up in basis at the time of death and increasing the gift tax exemption amount.	NAEDA's tax policy may need to be revised depending on whether Congress enacts new tax laws or allows some favorable tax provisions to expire. NAEDA will continue to support revamping the inheritance tax policy, and may take a formal position on additional tax issues, such as corporate tax rates, income taxes and LIFO.

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

Looking to the future...

NAEDA Legislative Fly-In

Time is running out to register for the 5th Annual NAEDA Legislative Fly-In to be held April 9-10 in Washington, D.C. To attend the fly-in, contact your association now. The fly-in allows participants to meet with legislators from their states and other professionals who work on issues that have an effect on the industry. Additional information also is available from NAEDA, phone 636/349-5000 or e-mail Mike Williams, NAEDA vice president of government relations and public policy, at williamsm@naeda.com.

NAEDA's ADA response

NAEDA is preparing its response to proposed changes to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. Dealers provided invaluable data on this issue through the Equipment Dealer ADA Assessment, which was distributed by e-mail in February. Dealer responses are being used to determine estimated costs to dealers for making proposed facility changes, which could be excessive if existing compliant facilities are found unacceptable. We thank the dealers who took the time to complete the comprehensive assessment.

Columbia Trade Promotion Agreement

Passage of the Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA) for Peru has provided hope that the Senate will give similar status to the Columbia TPA. NAEDA supports this effort, which will eliminate hurdles to Columbia's market for U.S. agricultural products. NAEDA is urging the Senate to authorize the Columbia TPA without further delay.