

NAEDA Advocacy Update




A monthly summary of 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
 Warranty Database	NAEDA and Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association (FEMA) are targeting several software/consultant suppliers with a request for proposal (RFP) on the warranty database project. The Web-based system would allow dealers, manufacturers and wholesalers to quickly communicate with each other on warranty policies and payments. RFP responses are expected in January. A working prototype is anticipated in June.	NAEDA believes a single warranty database makes sense for dealers and manufacturers.	Ongoing.
 Market Share	The NAEDA Market Share Task Force met on December 6 to discuss market share issues, including information gathered to date.	The market share metric, as it exists, should be studied and carefully examined for ways to improve the accuracy, completeness and acceptance of this metric. It can be a useful metric for both dealers and manufacturers.	Investigation of the process is ongoing.
 IRTF, Case IH & Case Construction Meet	The NAEDA Industry Relations Task Force (IRTF) met recently with representatives of Case IH and Case Construction. A variety of company-specific, dealer/manufacture topics were discussed, including market share issues.	NAEDA's IRTF is a critical tool in dealer advocacy and communications targeted to manufacturers.	Ongoing.

Government Relations

ISSUE	SUMMARY	NAEDA'S POSITION	STATUS
 Fly-In – March 8-9, 2007	Mark your calendar for the 4th Annual NAEDA Legislative Fly-In to be held March 8-9, 2007 in Washington, D.C. Come meet with the legislators and other professionals who work with issues affecting your industry on Capitol Hill in the months and years ahead. For more information contact your association. Additional information is also available from NAEDA, phone 636/349-5000 or e-mail Mike Williams, NAEDA vice president of government relations at williamsm@naeda.com .	This is a tremendous opportunity for your personal involvement on industry issues.	Plans are being finalized.
 UCC Task Force	The UCC Task Force, chaired by Robert Frazee, NAEDA chairman, has developed a formal disclaimer of security interest for dealers. The form was created by NAEDA's attorney, Jack Selzer, with Seigfreid, Bingham, Levy, Selzer and Gee. This form addresses the blanket security interest problem that equipment dealers face when they take used equipment in trade.	Initiated and supported development of the legally binding disclaimer.	Disclaimer of Security Interest form can be downloaded at NAEDA's Web site: www.naeda.com under the Dealer Advocacy section where it is kept in the UCC Search area.
 25 x '25 Alliance	The 25 x '25 Alliance is in the process of developing an Implementation Plan it hopes to release in February and present to Congress. Alliance partners, including NAEDA, have submitted input after an initial draft was shared with them for review. Equipment dealers across North America have an important stake in renewable energy, as agriculture and forestry will be critical contributors to achieving 25 x '25 goals.	Supporting coalition efforts.	Ongoing.



Take Action in 2007

Close majorities in both the House and Senate make your involvement especially critical with the 110th Congress. Legislation important to you and the industry can potentially pass or fail by the turn of just a handful of votes. If you make no other resolution for 2007, we hope you'll make it a point to Take Action in 2007 whenever NAEDA informs you of pending bills needing your vocal support or opposition. Your opinion voiced to your elected representatives can make the difference.

Louisiana Sugarcane Assistance

Agricultural disaster assistance has been authorized through the 2005 Louisiana Sugarcane Hurricane Disaster Assistance Program. The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is directed to provide compensation totaling \$40 million to producers and processors who suffered economic losses from the cumulative effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in August and September of 2005.

Water Resources Development Act

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) failed to reach a Senate/House compromise before Congress adjourned in December. The abandoned WRDA effort included \$3 billion for two key provisions – construction of seven 1,200-foot lock chambers at key sites, as well as system-wide ecosystem restoration measures. Support for a WRDA bill is anticipated to result in another attempt at passage when the 110th Congress convenes. Recent legislation generated overwhelming support in the House while the Senate version passed with a voice vote.

Animal Rights

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and other animal rights proponents backed Arizona proposition 204, which passed in Nov. 2006 and prohibits the use of gestation crates for pregnant sows and veal crates for calves. Arizona voters passed Proposition 204 with a 61.5 percent to 38.5 percent vote favoring the ban. HSUS contributed more than \$800,000 to the campaign. This is an important victory for animal rights proponents such as the HSUS, People For The Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and similar groups that continue to chip away at farming practices associated with animal agriculture. Expect an expansion of this effort.

Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act

The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act has become public law after passing both the House and Senate and empowers federal law enforcement authorities to investigate and prosecute animal and environmental terrorists when they commit crimes. The FBI considers this kind of violence America's number one domestic terrorism threat. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) fought passage of this legislation while the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) negotiated the bill and did not oppose it.