



Nebraska Autobody Association

News Capsule



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News & Information

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Members of the Nebraska AutoBody Association met with lawmakers at the state capitol, this month to call attention to the non-enforcement of laws designed to protect consumers against unfair and dangerous claims settlement practices that allow insurers to shortchange costs needed to restore crash-damaged vehicles to the conditions promised by the insurance policy. In preparation for the event, NABA created a video of newscasts as well as numerous examples of vehicles that had been improperly repaired to the extent that the repairs compromised critical vehicle safety systems. Other handouts included packets of information prepared by Pat Hancock and copies of the book, *In Dangerous Hands*. Over forty senators and legislative staff attended the event. NABA plans additional events so that repairers maintain a presence in the halls of government.

General Motors made its final payment of \$5.8 billion to the U.S. Treasury paying back its government loans in full and ahead of schedule. The announcement came at a ceremony to highlight the automakers \$257 million investment at GM's Fairfax, Kansas, and Detroit's Hamtramck assembly centers. "GM is able to repay the taxpayers in full, with interest and ahead of schedule." said GM's Chairman and CEO Ed Whitacre.

The Environment and Public Works Committee of the U.S. Senate wants to improve safety for all modes of transportation. John D. Porcari, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation said, "Innovation and technology will be critical to improve vehicle, operator and infrastructure safety that can reduce the number of crashes and the severity of crashes by improving driver performance and reducing crash severity by the use of signage, pavement friction, rumble strips, the Safety Edge and cable median barriers as well as reducing decreasing impaired driving, speeding, distracted driving and other high-risk behaviors.

On April 1, 2010, EPA and the Department of Transportation's National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced a joint final rule establishing an historic National Program that will dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve fuel economy for new cars and trucks sold in the United States. The combined EPA and NHTSA standards that make up this National Program apply to passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty passenger vehicles, covering model years 2012 through 2016. They require these vehicles to meet an estimated combined average emissions level of 250 grams of carbon dioxide per mile, equivalent to 35.5 miles per gallon (MPG) if the automobile industry were to meet this carbon dioxide level solely through fuel economy improvements. Together, these standards will cut greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 960 million metric tons and 1.8 billion barrels of oil over the lifetime of the vehicles sold under the program (model years 2012-2016).

The U.S. Senate may expedite the financial reform bill that calls for creation of a new Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection. The new agency would regulate auto loans offered by car dealers. The automobile industry is supporting the Brownback Amendment, which would exempt dealers from the bill. Washington, however, remains firm that auto dealers be included under the new financial legislation. The National Auto Dealers Association (NADA) is urging dealers to remind their Senators that dealers' 'Main Street' businesses did not contribute to the financial meltdown, and that auto financing is already well regulated at both the federal and state levels.

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Membership application available at

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