



NABA

Nebraska Auto Body Association

Nebraska Collision Industry Shop Bytes

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General Motors and Teijin of Japan will develop a new range of carbon fiber-based automotive parts. Carbon fiber is 10 times stronger and four times lighter than steel and is expected to contribute to reducing vehicle weights to the advantage of fuel efficiency. The new technology allows carbon fiber-reinforced thermoplastics to be used for a wider range of automotive parts, including hoods and roofs. SAE, the Society of Automotive Engineers, recently published *Automotive Carbon Fiber Composites: From Evolution to Implementation*, an overview of how composites can be used as an alternative to metal. SAE is a global association of more than 128,000 engineers and technical experts in the aerospace, automotive and commercial-vehicle industries.

The Nebraska attorney general's office is under fire for awarding a \$100,000 grant to an offshoot of Nebraska Farm Bureau, according to the Nebraska Watchdog. The grant from the state's highest consumer protection official raises questions of whether the money is politically motivated, a charge that Bruning denies. The grant, which was funded by fines and fees for violations of consumer protection and environmental laws, was presented by Bruning at the Farm Bureau convention in Kearney. "The donation raised eyebrows because the state's largest farm group's endorsement carries significant weight" said governor Dave Heineman, "and the Farm Bureau's endorsement of Tom Osborne helped put him over the top in the 2006 gubernatorial battle". Bruning is a candidate for the U.S. Senate in 2012.

A number of national associations including ASA, SCRS, and AASP have signed a joint statement that officially recognizes OEM vehicle manufacturer published repair procedures as the industry's repair standards. While initially gaining support to be successful the OEM initiative faces a number of potential hurdles including:

- Significant market conduct regulatory failures and biases toward the insurance industry
- Potential shrinkage of repairable vehicles due to upward pressures on total loss thresholds
- State insurance regulations that define insurance payment standards not to OEM-repairs but to repairs performed in 'skillful' or 'workmanlike' manner
- Insurers not paying to achieve OEM repair standards
- Ability of insurers to negotiate directly with claimants for non-OEM repairs

New advanced crash technologies are focusing on protecting the burgeoning number of the nation's senior citizens. "We are proud to welcome our new research partners, whose important work promises to advance our understanding in the areas of active safety, driver distraction and protecting the most at-risk drivers," said Chuck Gulash, Senior Executive Engineer at the Toyota Technical Center."

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<http://www.nebraskaautobody.com/filedownloads/memberap1&2.pdf>

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