



Automotive Service Association®

LEGISLATIVE NEWS



A bi-monthly update of ASA's legislative activities.

July/August 2014



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TakingTheHill.com

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Recent activities of ASA's Washington, D.C. office ...

Most Favored Nation Clause Update

Farmers Insurance dropped Most Favored Nation Clause (MFN) provisions from new direct repair agreements.

Dan Risley, Automotive Service Association (ASA) president and executive director, sent a letter of thanks to Jeffrey Dailey, Farmers' chief executive officer. "We are very pleased that Farmers has removed the MFN clause from the direct repair agreements. I want to personally thank you and the Farmers team for your leadership in eliminating these clauses, which have become a significant burden for ASA members," said Risley.

The elimination of MFN clauses has long been a policy priority for ASA.

ASA's collision leaders have made several trips to Washington, D.C., to discuss eliminating the clauses with congressional leaders, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission.

ASA continues to work with Capitol Hill and the administration to eliminate MFN clauses in direct repair agreements.

NACEICARS Technology and Telematics Expo Gives Shop Owners First Look at Future Auto Technologies

The Automotive Service Association (ASA) and the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers hosted the first Technology and Telematics Expo at the NACEICARS show in Detroit.

The expo featured a question-and-answer-style forum with automotive industry leaders including: Frank Weith, general manager, Connected Car Services, Volkswagen Group of America; Steve Coker, head, Uconnect Operations, Chrysler Group LLC; Alan Prescott, attorney, Ford Motor Co.; Bob Stewart, general manager, Customer Care & After-sales, ACDelco/General Motors; Eric Berkobin, vice president, Engineering, Verizon Telematics; Jules Polonetsky, executive director, Future of Privacy Forum; Roger Saul, Ph.D., director, Vehicle Research & Test Center, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The panelists provided valuable information about the future of vehicle technology and what it means for the modern repair technician.

Participants were given the opportunity to hear about some of OnStar's latest developments from Chief Operating Officer Terry Inch.

The Expo concluded with specialized workshops led by representatives from Toyota, General Motors, Mercedes-Benz USA and Volkswagen Group of America.

U.S. Senate Auto Safety Bill Targets Recalls, Increases NHTSA Funding, Addresses Rental Cars

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) has introduced Senate Bill 2760, the Motor Vehicle and Highway Safety Enhancement Act of 2014. McCaskill serves as chairman of the

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety and Insurance within the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

S. 2760 would reauthorize funding for highway and motor vehicle safety at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for the next six years. This bill seeks to improve auto safety by amending legal requirements related to recalls for manufacturers going through bankruptcy and implementing stricter penalties for civil and criminal auto safety violations. The highway safety component of S. 2760 focuses on highway safety grant funding to states for six years, updating the highway safety grant program, and revising the criteria for ignition interlock grant funding.

This bill also includes the text of S. 921, the Raechel and Jacqueline Houck Safe Rental Car Act of 2013, which would ensure that recalled rental vehicles are repaired before a consumer gets behind the wheel. The Motor Vehicle and Highway Safety Enhancement Act of 2014 is currently before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation for further consideration.

As of 8/29/14, with less than 10 legislative days left in the 113th Congress, it is unlikely this bill will pass Congress before 2015.

NHTSA Moves Forward V2V Communications Technology Implementation; Releases V2V Report

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) released an advance notice of proposed rule-making with a goal of requiring vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communication capability for light vehicles – passenger cars and light truck vehicles – and create minimum performance requirements for V2V devices and messages. The notice also included an outline for a comprehensive study of V2V technology that would focus on "technical feasibility, privacy and security, and preliminary estimates on costs and safety benefits."

NHTSA is currently taking public comments through Oct. 20, 2014, and is working to deliver a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking by 2016.

V2V Communications was part of the NACEICARS Technology and Telematics Expo this year in Detroit.

Please note: Effective Oct. 1, 2014, this will be our new address.

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