NEWS

Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association

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MECA Celebrates 40th Anniversary of Advanced Motor Vehicle Emission Control Technology

Washington, D.C. – On February 11, 2016, the Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association (MECA) hosted a reception at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the association and the introduction of advanced motor vehicle emission control technology, as well as to honor three individuals who have made significant contributions to this Nation's efforts to achieve clean air. The honorees were: Alberto Ayala, Deputy Executive Officer of the California Air Resources Board (ARB); Christopher Grundler, Director of the Office of Transportation and Air Quality at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and Drew Kodjak, Executive Director of The International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT). Janet McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator of the Office of Air and Radiation at the U.S. EPA, provided opening remarks.

The U.S. motor vehicle emission control program has rightly earned the reputation as one of the world's great environmental success stories. Today, emissions of harmful pollutants from new cars equipped with the latest U.S. EPA-/California ARB-compliant advanced emission control systems emit 99+ percent less pollution compared to comparable vehicles without any controls in the 1960s. As a result, the ambient air we breathe is much cleaner than it was 40 years ago. Of equal importance, the strategies and technologies achieving these pollution reductions have contributed to a significant increase in fuel economy and allowed automakers to continue to provide high-performance vehicles to the driving public.

The centerpiece of this successful program has been the advanced motor vehicle emission control technology that emerged in the 1970s and that has continued to evolve to provide increasingly greater emission reductions. Key components of this technology are the catalytic converter, on-board computers, advanced engine controls, and electronically controlled engines, as well as carbon canister and low fuel permeation materials used to control evaporative and refueling emissions. Indeed, since 1975, more than one billion vehicles worldwide have been equipped with these advanced control systems, resulting in the reduction of tens of billions of tons of pollution.

In addition, now that regulated pollutants for automobiles have been expanded to include carbon dioxide, the portfolio of products being developed and commercialized by emission control manufacturers has expanded to include technologies that impact combustion efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas

emissions from a vehicle's powertrain. These technologies include turbochargers, air management technologies, thermal management strategies, exhaust gas recirculation coolers, advanced ignition and fuel injection systems, and waste heat recovery technologies.

Originally designed for gasoline-fueled automobiles, advanced emission control technology is now being equipped on vehicles operating on diesel, natural gas, ethanol, methanol, and propane, and in a range of other mobile source applications, including lawn and garden equipment, heavy-duty trucks and buses, construction equipment, locomotives, and marine vessels.

"Advanced motor vehicle emission control technology has been a cornerstone in our Nation's continuing efforts to clean up the air we breathe," said Rasto Brezny, MECA's Executive Director. "However, in spite of all the progress in reducing pollution, over 120 million Americans still live in areas that do not meet the current federal air quality standards, so our job is not yet done. Furthermore, the need to meet new standards to reduce GHG emissions will require the deployment of robust and cost-effective vehicle efficiency technologies. MECA and our member companies look forward to continuing to work with regulators, our industry partners, the environment and public health communities, and others to address these challenges, both here in the U.S. and around the world."

Founded in 1976, MECA is a national association of companies that manufacture a variety of exhaust emission control technologies, evaporative emission control technologies, and powertrain efficiency technologies for cars, trucks, buses, and off-road vehicles and equipment, as well as stationary internal combustion engines. For more information, please visit MECA's website at: www.meca.org.

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