LETTER FROM THE GAC CO-CHAIRS

TO: Fire Apparatus Manufacturers Association (FAMA)
Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association (FEMSA)

CC: International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)
Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI)

FROM:

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Home Day Committee Chair

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SUBJ: **Preparation Guidelines for Home Day 2007**

The FAMA/FEMSA GAC is excited to confirm the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI), International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) are partnering with us again this year in our Home Day event. They are very excited about teaming up with us to help present a unified voice in our efforts to send our fire service message to members of Congress.

During our 2006 Home Day activities we had over 32 member companies participate in events in 11 different states. This was a great start and we would like to thank those who participated. At the same time, we would like to invite those member companies who did not participate to organize a Home Day in their area this year.

As business leaders involved in the fire and emergency equipment and services business, we are unified in our concern for ongoing federal support for the safety of first responders and the vitality of our businesses within the community. To reinforce the importance of this, it is extremely important for your company to establish relations with your Congressional offices, both your representative and senators. If you have a relationship with them, now is the time to renew it, as Congress will be making important decisions on FEMSA/FAMA priorities in the coming months.

Remember the old adage: “Out of sight, out of mind.” We cannot assume that the strong congressional support we have enjoyed in the past will continue in an era of federal deficits and significant changes within DHS. We therefore strongly encourage all members to visit their local congressional offices or invite members of their congressional delegation and staff to your facilities to view first hand the importance of your company to your congressional district and state.

As you are aware, the GAC is encouraging companies to organize local “Home Day” events with their federal legislators during the spring and summer. These events may be as complex as a multiple-company event held by several local FAMA/FEMSA member companies to which all congressional members are invited, or as simple as an individual company scheduling a one-on-one visit to its local congressional offices.

In order to help facilitate the “Home Day” activities in its different forms, we have prepared a “Home Day” kit to help guide you. The information included in the kit has been gathered from a variety of resources and provides much useful information and guidance.

It is our understanding based on information received through CFSI that, provided you structure your event to include only “food or refreshments of nominal value” that are not “part of a meal” (e.g., light appetizers and drinks or soda and cookies), there will not be an issue with the House or Senate Ethics Committees.

We hope this information helps you in the development of your local “Home Day” and would like to assure you that our assistance is available if you need it.

Finally, if you have not already filled out the survey/questionnaire at **www.gacsurvey.org** we ask that you do so in order to give us valuable information and feedback on your congressional representatives.