

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2011

The Honorable Eugene Dodaro
Comptroller General
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We are writing to request the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study of non-defense federal procurement practices in obtaining and using replacement parts and equipment for vehicle fleets. Remanufacturing involves a standardized industrial process to recover and recycle used motor vehicle parts, returning them to their “same as new” or better condition and performance. This remanufacturing work is being performed by workers across the United States, resulting in replacement parts at a lower price than comparable new parts, providing greater value to the purchaser. Some examples of remanufactured components include: alternators, starters, clutches, carburetors, distributors, engines, transmissions and wiper motors.

Recognizing the value of remanufactured parts, we have questions on the usage levels of remanufactured parts in the federal fleets. We respectfully request that you answer a number of questions in your study:

1. As maintenance and repair service is performed on government light-, medium-, and heavy duty non-defense vehicles and fleets, to what extent are remanufactured parts compared to new parts being used? Are there general barriers that are preventing government fleets from using remanufactured replacement parts?
2. As the various government fleets rely on remanufactured parts and components, are specific product categories seeing greater use than other product categories? If so, which product categories see greater use and which categories have not been as accepted?
3. Nationwide, are federal fleets in certain regions or localities more likely to rely on remanufactured motor vehicle parts? What are the obstacles preventing regions or localities from using remanufactured replacement parts?
4. Is there a disparity of usage of remanufactured parts on similar vehicles between different government agencies? What are the impediments preventing different agencies from using remanufactured parts?
5. What are the barriers within government procurement practices to substantial reliance on remanufactured parts?
6. What is the current fiscal benefit for federal fleets using remanufactured parts and components?
7. What is the potential fiscal benefit with greater reliance on remanufactured parts for fleet and vehicle repair and maintenance?

Thank you in advance for your work on this request. Should you need further information, please contact Megan Savage in Representative Rokita's office at (202) 225-5037 or Matt Van Kuiken in Senator Stabenow's office at (202) 224-4822. We appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator



Rob Portman
United States Senator



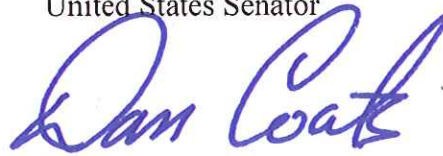
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Carl Levin
United States Senator



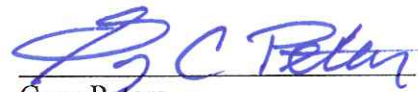
James Inhofe
United States Senator



Dan Coats
United States Senator



Dan Burton
Member of Congress



Gary Peters
Member of Congress



Todd Platts
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Dennis Ross
Member of Congress



Billy Long
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Tom Cole
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