


# NewsLine


## For Small and Medium Manufacturers

[www.nam.org/smm](http://www.nam.org/smm)

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### Action Needed To Bring the Asbestos Bill to the Senate Floor!

S. 852 is expected to be on the floor of the Senate in early February. The bill gets the problem out of the courts and into a private-sector financed no-fault system. Most smaller companies (except those that have paid more than \$1 million in asbestos defense costs or claims) would have no requirement to pay into the fund and all would be free from future threats of asbestos litigation from the trial bar.

While not perfect, S. 852 represents the best opportunity yet to address the asbestos litigation crisis, which has forced more than 70 companies into bankruptcy, 60,000 Americans out of work and 8,400 companies into court, at a cost of \$343 billion to our economy. The bill would create a \$140 billion trust fund – the largest in history, without a single dollar of taxpayer money. It would take asbestos litigation out of the courts – preventing trial lawyers from filing claims on behalf of those who are not sick and draining precious resources away from those who are.

The NAM-led Asbestos Alliance supports the process moving forward and will continue to work to improve the bill at every step of the legislative process and seek necessary revisions on the floor.

**Action Needed:** Please ask your senators to support all efforts to bring the asbestos bill to the Senate floor quickly for debate and final votes. Urge them to work with Sens. Specter (R-PA), Leahy (D-VT) and others and reach a consensus on a sensible solution to this crisis. [Click here](#) to use the NAM's Contact Congress and urge your senator to vote for S.852.

### Urge Your Senator To Support the Nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court!

The NAM's Judicial Review Committee (JRC) has endorsed the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to be Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Samuel Alito is a level-headed jurist who interprets the law and is not prone to taking the law in directions in which it wasn't intended. He also possesses a level of business understanding, which we think is vital for any nominee. It is the NAM's hope that with Supreme Court Justices like Judge Alito, we can begin to bring down the exorbitant legal costs in this country. These costs currently devour some 2 percent of our GDP, making us

### Send Your Team to National Manufacturing Week® March 20-23

Top floor to plant floor. Concept to delivery. Join the entire U.S. manufacturing community as it connects for the knowledge and insights you need to survive and thrive in the expanding manufacturing marketplace. Thousands of new ideas, products and proven applications all for the taking by your team over four days.

\* Only conference to cover the entire manufacturing process featuring more than 250 all-new sessions and hands-on workshops

\* More than 1,000 leading companies and the people behind the best, newest and most important products and innovations.

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Take time now to plan for the annual National Manufacturing Week from March 20-23 in Rosemont, Ill., just outside of Chicago (5 minutes from O'Hare Airport). Free admission to exhibits and early bird conference pricing until February 24, 2006. Register today at [www.manufacturingweek.com](http://www.manufacturingweek.com).

the world leader in legal costs, seven and a half times that of our nearest competitor.

To view the criteria by which the JRC made its decision, click [here](#).

To support Judge Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court, click [here](#).

## **R&D Credit Expired; NAM Seeks Quick Action in 2006**

Urge your senators and representative *today* to extend and strengthen the R&D credit ASAP in 2006. Tell them *you* and our country cannot afford to have an expired R&D.

Go to [www.nam.org/extendr&d](http://www.nam.org/extendr&d) and let them know how crucial this credit is. The R&D credit expired December 31, 2005 for the 12th time. Both the Senate and House late last year passed identical language of an NAM-advocated strengthened and extended credit for one year included in separate tax reconciliation bills (S. 2020/H. R. 4297).

Conference action on these bills could occur as early as next month. In the global race for R&D dollars, the U.S. is at a competitiveness disadvantage with the credit expired. In 2003, the growth in foreign R&D spending exceeded the growth in domestic R&D spending. For information, contact Monica McGuire at (202) 637-3076 or [mmcguire@nam.org](mailto:mmcguire@nam.org).

## **Increase in Postal Rates Could Have Been Avoided**

Postal rates just went up, costing all businesses. This could have been avoided or at least mitigated if Congress had completed action on H.R. 22, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, and S. 662, the Postal Modernization and Accountability Act. The House passed H.R. 22 on July 26, 2005, by strong vote of 420 - 10. It is past time for the Senate to act on S. 662.

An efficient and modern post office is important to businesses in nearly every industry. The mailing industry contributes nearly \$900 billion in economic value — or close to 9 percent of GDP — and 9 million jobs to the nation's economy.

Contact your senators and urge them to let the Senate leadership know that Postal Reform is important. See [http://www.nam.org/s\\_nam/sec.asp?](http://www.nam.org/s_nam/sec.asp?) for more information.

## **How Competitive Is Your State?**

Find out by ordering the newly updated *2006 Competitiveness Redbook - National Edition*. Sponsored by ManuSource, an independent manufacturing resource network comprised of North American Moores Rowland International member firms with significant experience in providing assurance, tax and consulting services to manufacturers.

This publication is priceless to any manufacturer looking to expand capacity and effectively compete in today's domestic and international markets. You'll receive an overview of the business



**Gary Johnson, vice president of ACE Clearwater Enterprises in Torrance, Calif., testifies in Congress regarding reauthorization of the R&D tax credit.**

## **Are You Looking For More Business?**

The NAM is often contacted by entrepreneurs who are looking for manufacturers who can make their products and/or inventions. So, we stepped in and added a section to our Web site titled "Need a Manufacturer?"

If you're ready to increase your company's business, simply go to [www.nam.org/findbusiness](http://www.nam.org/findbusiness) and peruse the public request forms. If you're interested in manufacturing a product, you can contact the requester directly.

**Note:** You will need a username and password to access this information. Your username is your first initial and last name (e. g., bjones). To get your password, follow the online instructions or call (1-800) 248-6NAM, or (202) 637-3082 in the Washington, D.C.

climate in all 50 states and key indicators of where states rank in such areas as taxes; nonagriculture employment growth; wages and output of production workers in manufacturing; union membership; and educational statistics.

The book is only \$10. Visit <http://www.nam.org/redbook2006> to order. Quantity discounts available.

### **RecruitMilitary Launches Veteran Hiring Partnership with The Manufacturing Institute**

RecruitMilitary has established a veteran hiring initiative with The Manufacturing Institute (MI), the research and education arm of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). This initiative provides a great way for NAM member companies to meet their staffing needs by hiring skilled military veterans via RecruitMilitary's online recruiting tools.

Employers that participate in the MI initiative get access to RM's database of 94,500 registered job candidates who have a military background and technical skills, as well as the ability to post jobs at the RM site, and send E-Mail Blasts to selected categories of candidates – all at a discount for NAM members ([www.nam.org/recruitmilitary](http://www.nam.org/recruitmilitary)).

**Free Webinar!** A Webinar is scheduled for February 14th for NAM members who would like to know more about how to use RecruitMilitary's services and how to get access to skilled veterans looking for employment. Special discounts will be available for NAM members who participate in the Webinar. For more information about the Webinar, please contact David Kralik at [dkralik@nam.org](mailto:dkralik@nam.org). For more information about RecruitMilitary, visit the Web site URL above.

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### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**NewsLine** is a publication of the NAM Small & Medium Manufacturers Department and is a legislative driven newsletter of actionable information on what is happening in Washington, D.C.

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