



MICHIGAN SOYBEAN
PROMOTION COMMITTEE

a new release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 26, 2006

Contact: Gail R. Frahm
Executive Director
Phone: 888.769.6424

DaimlerChrysler Applauded for B20 Approval

The **National Biodiesel Board (NBB)**, **United Soybean Board (USB)**, and **Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (MSPC)** welcomed the **DaimlerChrysler** decision on approval of B20 (20 percent biodiesel) in 2007 Model Year Dodge Ram Pickup Trucks, with biodiesel that meets the fuel specifications established by the U.S. military. Chrysler Group President and CEO **Tom LaSorda** made the announcement in remarks prepared for the Economic Club of Detroit Jan. 23 meeting.

"Biofuels represent a huge opportunity to reduce fuel consumption and our dependence on foreign oil," said LaSorda.

NBB's close work with DaimlerChrysler and other original equipment manufacturers was foundational to the decision. The USB and the soybean checkoff (including MSPC) invested millions of dollars in biodiesel research, testing and outreach that was critical to acceptance of biodiesel by the equipment industry. "Chrysler Group blazed trails with their endorsed use of B5 (5 percent biodiesel) fuel in the **Jeep® Liberty CRD** diesel SUV



and now they are leading the industry with their support of B20," said Joe Jobe, CEO of NBB. "These are both important steps in greater use of American-made biodiesel. Soybean farmers should be gratified that their checkoff dollars were central to reaching these milestones of greater recognition and use of biodiesel."

Initially, DaimlerChrysler is approving use of B20 in Dodge Ram pickups equipped with **Cummins** diesel engines for its military, government and commercial fleet customers only. DaimlerChrysler is working with the NBB, U.S. government, automotive suppliers, energy providers, universities and independent agencies on a national fuel standard that would make B20 an option for all owners of Dodge Ram diesels. Until then, however, DaimlerChrysler requires use of biodiesel fuel that meets the fuel specifications established by the **American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM D6751)**, as well as the U.S. Military requirement that any stored biodiesel fuel be used up within a 6-month time period.

DaimlerChrysler Applauded for B20 Approval ... continued

To move forward with the momentum of B20 approvals, NBB will continue its dialogue with original equipment manufacturers as well as provide the research and testing that will lead to greater acceptance of biodiesel. "We hope other original equipment manufacturers will follow DaimlerChrysler's lead," said Jobe. Promoting increased use of biodiesel is a part of DaimlerChrysler's campaign to re-introduce diesel-powered passenger vehicles to U.S. consumers. Modern, clean diesel vehicles offer fuel economy improvements of 30 percent and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, compared with gas-powered vehicles. At the same time, diesel vehicles provide the power and performance valued by American consumers.

Chrysler Group has previously endorsed use of B5 (5 percent biodiesel) fuel in the Jeep® Liberty CRD diesel SUV, and every vehicle is fueled with B5 at the assembly plant in Toledo. In addition, use of B2 is approved for the diesel-powered Dodge Sprinter vans

In the United States, Chrysler Group is participating in an extensive biodiesel research program, including development of a national B20 specification. The research partnership includes Detroit-based nonprofit NextEnergy, Biodiesel Industries, the nation's largest chain of biodiesel refineries, automotive suppliers Bosch, Delphi and Cummins, along with researchers based at Wayne State and Michigan State universities, with initial work to include much-needed research and field testing of biodiesel fuels. "Biofuels are proof that at least part of the solution to our energy, environment and national security issues can be homegrown," LaSorda said.

The MSPC, organized in 1976, is a farmer created organization which operates under state and national law to research, promote, educate and communicate information about soybeans to farmers, consumers, health professionals, researchers and more. The Mission Statement of the MSPC is to efficiently and effectively leverage checkoff resources to increase profit opportunities for Michigan soybean producers while enhancing a positive public image of the soybean industry. The MSPC is led by a group of seven, governor appointed farmers from across predetermined districts based on equality of soybean acreage in each.

- END -