



AED Washington Office
Obadal, Filler, MacLeod & Klein, PLC
121 North Henry Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone: 703.739.9513
Facsimile: 703.739.9488
Electronic Mail: caklein@aednet.org

Start Us Up USA!: Coming soon to an AED Summit Near You

The Start Us Up USA! grassroots campaign has been one of the most successful undertakings in the history of AED's Government Affairs program. The goal of the campaign is simple: Educate lawmakers in Washington, D.C., about the economic crisis facing the equipment industry and urge action on a multi-year highway bill and other initiatives that will spur economic growth and create jobs in our industry.

Working together, AED and the Association of Equipment Manufacturers have generated thousands of e-mails to elected officials, held three successful rallies and "Idle Equipment Caravans" in Las Vegas, Chicago, and Washington, D.C., reached more than 14 million voters through media coverage of the campaign, and coordinated dozens of meetings for equipment industry leaders with senior members of Congress and Obama administration officials.

Recent movement on key legislation suggests lawmakers are hearing our message, but we're still a long way from the finish line. We need to **keep the campaign's momentum going** and continue to inform key policymakers that inaction is unacceptable. If you haven't already gotten involved in Start Us Up USA!, here's your chance.

On **Jan. 20, 2009**, Start Us Up USA! will be coming to **San Antonio** in connection with the 2010 AED Summit and CONDEX. A number of local and national industry leaders will participate in a **noon Start Us Up USA! rally on the plaza outside the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center**. Confirmed speakers include AED President Toby Mack; 2009 AED Chairman Bennett Closner (Closner Equipment); Peter Holt (Holt CAT), Dean Word, III, a leading San Antonio contractor; Texas State Senator Jeff Wentworth, a local champion of increased infrastructure investment; and equipment manufacturer representatives.

Following the rally, a **caravan of idle equipment**, provided by Texas AED members, will make its way past the rally site and through the streets of San Antonio to focus public attention on the local impact of the equipment industry downturn and the need for fast action on the highway bill.

We hope all Summit attendees and members of the San Antonio equipment and construction industries will make time to participate in this important event and help us keep the Start Us Up USA! campaign's momentum going.

If you're a Texas AED member who wants to get involved, please contact AED Vice President of Government Affairs Christian Klein at 703-739-9513 or caklein@aednet.org.

To learn more about the campaign and watch highlight videos of past rallies, go to <http://www.startusupusa.com>.