



Greenlight the RPM Act

To say that we are in an interesting time would probably be an understatement. The political landscape is perhaps the most bizarre ever witnessed and the reality of foreign and domestic terrorism appears to be here to stay. I have been told that everything is relative to what one has been exposed to before and while this may be true, there are things taking place right now that have caused my shift light to flicker as my mind hits the rev limiter.

Speaking of rev limiter, thank goodness that there are still some good old American diversions such as fast cars and cheap gas to fuel them. If you would have told someone in the late 70's that someday you would be able to walk into a dealer and purchase a new domestic 4 door that made over 700 horsepower (Charger Hellcat), had air conditioning and room for 5 they would have thought you were nuts. Tell that same person that you would also be able to purchase an all-electric car that would go 0-60 in 2.5 seconds (Tesla S) they would have known you were nuts and given you a one-way ticket to a room with padded walls. Insanity they would claim then! Reality I say now.

The reality is that many of these modern muscle cars end up as dedicated racecars at sanctioned events on road courses or at the drag strip in search of a low ET. It is at this point that there is need for you to become aware and active in your industry and the politics that affect it.

Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has taken the position that it is illegal to make emissions system modifications to motor vehicles that are converted into racecars used exclusively in competition. This includes changes to the engine, exhaust or any other part of the emission system.

SEMA, on behalf of and in defense of the automotive aftermarket, is supporting [H.R. 4715](#) and [S. 2659](#) the **Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports Act of 2016** (RPM Act) which makes it clear that the Clean Air Act does not ban the modification of street vehicles for use exclusively in competition. The ramifications of the EPA's proposed stance on the automotive aftermarket has the potential to be vast. Many of the manufacturers that produce race parts also produce parts for our hot rods and muscle cars. If the targeted manufacturers go away, who will produce items like cams, headers and intake manifolds?

Please, go the SEMA Action Network's website (semasan.com) and become educated on this bill and all the legislative items that impact on our industry. Step up now, become informed and act. Become a member of the SEMA Action Network (it's free!) and be in the loop on what SEMA is working for on your hobbies behalf.

Questions, comments, something to add? Contact me at dalkire@RPUI.com and let me know.

