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**Composites One and ACMA Meet with Congressmen to Broaden Public's Awareness of Composites**

**Arlington Heights, IL, August 17, 2011...** Composites One has partnered with the American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA) on a grass roots effort to make lawmakers and the local media more aware of the role played by the composites industry in America's economy.

The effort kicked off on August 17 when U.S. Representatives Donald A. Manzullo (R-IL 16) and Joe Walsh (R-IL 8) met with Composites One representatives Marcy Offner, Marketing Manager; Rick Hess, Technical Sales Representative; and Shari Schlau, Distribution Center Manager, at Composites One's distribution center in Woodstock, IL. The purpose of their visit was to gain a better understanding of the composites industry, which in Illinois alone accounts for more than 13,000 jobs and \$2 billion of economic activity. Also present for the meeting was John Schweitzer, ACMA Senior Director of Government Affairs.



Above: (L to R) Tom Wienckowski, Congressman Don Manzullo and Leon Garoufalis inspect countertop at Marble Works.

At the Composites One Woodstock facility the Congressmen were given a tour of the warehouse where they learned about the breadth of reach the composites industry has in manufacturing today.



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Later that afternoon, Congressman Manzullo visited Marble Works, a major supplier of solid surface products to the kitchen and bath industry. At this visit, Composites One President and COO Leon Garoufalis and ACMA Senior Director of Government Affairs John Schweitzer, along with Tom Wienckowski, President and CEO of South Elgin company Marble Works, provided the Congressman a firsthand view of a composite application.

For Congressman Manzullo, the visit served as a critical fact-finding mission into the challenges facing today's composites industry. Of particular interest was the recent ruling by the National Toxicology Program (NTP) in its 12th Report on Carcinogens (RoC) which listed styrene as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen".

Styrene is a compound found in 90% of today's composites materials. "That ruling could eventually lead to the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in the U.S.," said Congressman Manzullo, who co-chairs the bipartisan House Manufacturing Caucus, an effort focused on strengthening U.S. manufacturing and helping employers put Americans back to work. The ACMA and several other organizations insist that HHS' National Toxicology Program listed styrene in the RoC based on flawed science. The National Toxicology Program staff in its assessment provided to its peer reviewers only a few unrepresentative styrene studies suggesting a possible cancer connection, ignoring numerous other studies to the contrary, including those used by the European Union, which recently conducted a thorough review of large styrene health effects databases and concluded that there is no link to human cancer.

To further explore the matter, Congressman Manzullo has requested that a hearing be convened by the House Manufacturing Caucus, and asked for support from the House's Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services. "It's very important that we visit companies like Composites One to find out how these issues impact their business, their employees and their customers," he added.

For Composites One and Marble Works, the meeting was an ideal opportunity to increase the public's understanding of composites. "The ACMA has done a tremendous job in supporting our industry and its members," said Garoufalis. "Thanks to our meeting with Congressman Manzullo, we hope to expand upon that



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support and increase recognition so that the public understands the valuable role that composites play in everyday life.”

### ***About Composites One***

Composites One is the nation's leading distributor of composite materials serving customers from over 30 locations in North America. Composites One offers composites fabricators and molders thousands of products from over 500 of the industry's top suppliers through a technical sales and customer service force that is the most knowledgeable in the industry. The company offers a variety of value-added services that include closed mold technologies, technical applications reviews, and unmatched regulatory compliance assistance.

Composites One is headquartered in Arlington Heights, IL. For more information visit [www.compositesone.com](http://www.compositesone.com) or call 800-621-8003.

For more information on the American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA), please visit [www.acmanet.org](http://www.acmanet.org).

For more information on Congressman Donald Manzullo and his efforts, please visit [manzullo.house.gov](http://manzullo.house.gov).

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