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For Immediate Release

Level Field Institute Issues “Campaign Briefing Kit”

-- With “Detroit” at the Center of Debates on Health Care, Free Trade, Currency Policy and CAFE, Retirees Make Their Case to Candidates --

Washington, DC – *October 8, 2007* – In advance of tomorrow’s GOP debate in Dearborn, Michigan, the Level Field Institute (www.levelfieldinstitute.org) announced its 2008 “Campaign Briefing Kit,” which will be distributed to each of the presidential campaigns. Level Field, an automotive research organization founded by retired autoworkers, produced the guide as a tool to help candidates better understand how key issues in the 2008 election affect our auto industry and the U.S. economy overall.

“Strong action by the next President on health care, trade and currency policy could save millions of U.S. jobs and tens of billions of dollars in investment,” said Level Field spokesperson Don Marshall.

Auto workers, retirees and their families represent a substantial voting block. Auto suppliers are the largest employers in seven states, including an early primary state, South Carolina, and general election battleground states Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee. And one-in-ten U.S. jobs, including those at the automakers themselves, dealerships and hundreds of research labs, is supported by the auto industry.

“Detroit is taking hits in Congress and on the campaign trail this year,” said Marshall. “Auto retirees are actively engaged in this election and want to make sure candidates have the facts on trade, automotive innovation, jobs and other key issues.”

Copies of the guide are available at www.levelfieldinstitute.org.

Detroit’s ‘legacy costs’ are frequently criticized, but few are talking about the people behind that legacy. Why do domestic automakers spend so much more on health care? It’s partly because Ford, GM and Chrysler support 600 retirees and retiree spouses for every one retiree supported by foreign automakers.

GOP candidates will gather tomorrow night in a state that invests \$10 billion each year in safer cars, cleaner emissions and better fuel economy. Ford alone spends nearly as much on R&D as NASA – and nearly seven times more than the Energy Department invests in its entire fuel efficiency and alternative fuels programs.

About Level Field Institute

Level Field seeks to promote U.S. jobs, R&D and infrastructure investment by offering clear comparisons of how various automakers contribute to the U.S. economy. Established by retirees and families of GM, Ford, DaimlerChrysler, and the suppliers and dealers that support them, the Level Field Institute also has the support of major manufacturers, suppliers, dealers, unions and others who care about these issues. Level Field welcomes foreign automaker investments and supports free trade.

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