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**Tennessee Chamber and Tennessee Automotive Manufacturers Association (TAMA)
Announce Strategic Merger Partnership**

*Tennessee Chamber Further Embeds Manufacturing Leadership to Enhance and Promote
Automotive Manufacturing Across Tennessee*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Announcing a rare consolidation of major trade associations, today Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry President & CEO Bradley Jackson announced a comprehensive strategic partnership with the Tennessee Automotive Manufacturers Association (TAMA) aimed to significantly increase and enhance services for automotive manufacturing across the state. The effort will leverage the statewide presence, strength, and association management experience of the Tennessee Chamber to enhance the mission of TAMA primarily for educational events, networking, and member communication and services.

According to the Brookings Institute, Tennessee ranks as the #1 state for automotive manufacturing strength, employing over 123,000 Tennesseans and totaling over \$4.8 billion in automotive exports in 2019. In recent years, Volkswagen, Nissan and GM have made billion-dollar announcements to [build electric vehicles](#) and expand production of cells and battery packs in Tennessee, with other [supply chain manufacturers](#) announcing moves to the Volunteer state. Thanks to a [partnership](#) between the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee drivers will benefit from a statewide EV charging network with the capacity to support 200,000 EVs on Tennessee roads by 2028.

The Tennessee Chamber currently affiliates and provides association services to the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives (TCCE), Tennessee Economic Development Council (TEDC), U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Chemistry Council (ACC) and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM).

The extensive agreement, negotiated over a year, will establish Board of Director appointments to both TAMA and the Tennessee Chamber as well as an operational partnership framework. Founded in 1912 as the Tennessee Manufacturers Association, the Chamber engages with elected officials across the state to impact policy and enhance and protect Tennessee's

business climate. The Chamber boasts membership of companies across Tennessee from a wide variety of sectors employing approximately 350,000 Tennesseans.

Founded in 1987, TAMA serves as the primary voice for automotive manufacturing in Tennessee. As founding members of the Southern Automotive Manufacturers Alliance, TAMA represents automotive manufacturing in the U.S. southern region, which hosts large automotive manufacturing events to include the annual Southern Automotive Conference (SAC). The next SAC event in Nashville is scheduled for 2024.

In addition to policy expertise, the Chamber also offers a number of crucial programs and services for manufacturers that include TOSHA training, environmental permit compliance, and health insurance programs dedicated to manufacturers.

Tennessee Chamber President & CEO Bradley Jackson noted, “We thank TAMA for this tremendous partnership and opportunity to enhance automotive manufacturing here in Tennessee. Automotive manufacturing has become a cornerstone of Tennessee’s economy and is absolutely vital to our economic growth and success as a state.”

This new structure will allow TAMA to continue as a non-profit association while utilizing the significant infrastructure of the Tennessee Chamber to enhance and grow their operations.

TAMA President Dan Davidson noted, “This partnership will allow TAMA to enhance and expand our work and services to advocate for automotive manufacturing in Tennessee building on the great work we started in 1987. , We have maintained a great relationship with the Tennessee Chamber as our State Manufacturing Association and believe partnering with such a significant organization will help us both to strengthen automotive manufacturing in the Volunteer State.”

Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Founded in 1912, the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Tennessee Manufacturers Association is Tennessee’s most prominent statewide business and manufacturing trade association. With a commanding statewide presence of business leaders and local chambers of commerce throughout the Volunteer state, the Tennessee Chamber is a driving force for business policy and economic prosperity in Tennessee and is the official state affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the American Chemistry Council. For more information, visit www.tnchamber.org.

Tennessee Automotive Manufacturing Association

The Tennessee Automotive Manufacturers Association is the state’s leading automotive industry organization. Established in 1987, with a mission is to strengthen and expand Tennessee’s automotive industry, TAMA fulfills this mission through fostering collaboration between industry and government entities, providing forums for networking and continuing education, preparing automotive manufacturers for workforce challenges and advocating for a regulatory environment to enable the automotive industry to thrive.