First I would like to thank you Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Cochran, and Members of the Committee for the invitation to speak today about Lear Corporation's bio-derived products. My name is Ashford Galbreath and I am Director of Advanced Materials and Comfort Engineering representing the Lear Corporation team from Chairwoman Stabenow's home state of Michigan that develops bio-based products and launched SoyFoam<sup>™</sup> in 2007 on the '08 Ford Mustang.

Environmental stewardship and sustainability are key dimensions of Lear Corporation's mission statement. In 2004, Ford Motor Company approached Lear about partnering to develop Soy-based automotive foams. We formed a team including The United Soybean Board Checkoff, Renosol, Bayer and a soy polyol supplier and set a new standard of "green" foam performance with the first-to-market launch of SoyFoam<sup>™</sup>.

SoyFoam<sup>™</sup> is soybean oil-derived automotive polyurethane for use in seating, head restraint, armrest, and console foam padding. For SoyFoam<sup>™</sup> we substitute petroleum-based polyol with soybean oil-based polyol and adjust the formula to meet strict automotive specifications. We successfully replaced 5% petroleum polyol by weight in a low density seating cushion and back foam and replaced 16% petroleum oil content by weight in a high density head restraint & typical European seat cushion foam.

Today Lear sells SoyFoam<sup>™</sup> seating on multiple Ford, General Motors, Hyundai and other customer vehicles molded in the United States and Mexico. We have approvals for ten percent level seating foam and research shows promise for at least double that amount. Soy polyol provides significant environmental improvements as measured by a National Institute of Standards BEES (Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability) Study. Giving all environmental impacts equal weighting, soy polyol showed a 75% improvement compared to petroleum polyol. Global Warming improvement from a net reduction of 5.5 Kg of CO<sub>2</sub> for each Kg used. 2 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> is captured from the atmosphere when grown plus you avoid 3.5 Kg of CO<sub>2</sub> release from petroleum.

We consider SoyFoam<sup>™</sup> to be very significant to Lear Corporation in that it serves as a firm representation of our commitment to the environment, product cost control and meeting both our customer's and the consumer's needs. Most of our global OEM customers have environmentally proactive initiatives in response to demanding regulatory hurdles such as the European Commission's requirement to lower carbon use levels.

Success with SoyFoam<sup>™</sup> helped establish Lear's environmental leadership position in automotive seating. Environmental innovation continued at Lear with launches of DECS <sup>™</sup> and Evolution<sup>™</sup> seating systems that combine weight reduction with biobased and recycled innovations. Recently we added an EcoPadding<sup>™</sup> a trim laminate made with 40% nano-crystalline cellulosic fibers and 24% recycled polyester that can replace polyurethane foam trim laminates. We are also close to incorporating other biobased foam ingredients such as soy-oil.

At Lear there are multiple *business-related drivers* for bio-based product innovation. One is economic consideration of controlling product cost increases from rising oil price. Petroleum related price increases are costly to Lear's customers and consumers. Although currently somewhat stable, historically oil price is much more volatile than the price of soybeans.

As use increases, new volume should improve supply economics in affiliated industries. North American use of soy polyol and other critical raw materials should continue at a good pace as the product proliferates and content per pad grows. Lear's internal foam molding business is growing globally and SoyFoam<sup>™</sup> is expected to be a key component of that growth.

Bio-based products are one of our key areas of innovation focus. Lear faces a variety of "sustainability pressures" and response related initiatives are multidimensionally important to us; *Compliance* with local and national regulations, conflict minerals and voluntary protocols; *Market pressures* from customers needing to reduce supplier impacts, consumers with a growing environmental awareness; *Business benefits* from innovative products with increased market potential, and a sustainable workplace attracts new talent; and *Social concerns* desiring to protect employees welfare and to build community relations.

Thank you again Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Cochran, and Members of the Committee for your time today. I look forward to answering any questions you may have and thank you for your support of bio-based product development.



SoyFoam™

P LEAR.

Environmentally friendly seating foam with hydroxyl-functionalized soybean oil substituted for a petroleum-based ingredient. SoyFoam<sup>™</sup> Seating meets all automotive performance requirements.

#### **Consumer Benefits**

#### **Program Advantages**

- Environmentally Friendly
- Naturally Comfortable
- Economical: Reduced sensitivity to petroleum cost fluctuation
- Award winning technology



- Renewable Resource Derived: 5 15% of product weight are 100% renewable and available globally
- Reduces Carbon Use: Net reduction of 5.5 KG of CO2 for each Kg used
- Improved Material Cost Control: Base natural raw material, Soy oil, is more cost stable than petroleum
- 60% lower conversion energy is required to make the polyol
- Four times less smog formation compared to petroleum

seating 🗱 electrical 🔺 LEAR PROPRETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL The information contained here

### **DECS<sup>™</sup> Dynamic Environmental Comfort System** <sup>™</sup> Advanced Seat Comfort Using Layered/Eco-Friendly Materials

Layered design balancing consumer comfort, safety, environmental and economic needs with the best naturally engineered seating environment



# Lear Products Designed to Decrease Waste





### Lear EcoPadding<sup>™</sup>

Renewable, Recyclable Trim Laminate, Plus Pad and Insert Traditional polyurethane trim laminate, plus pad, and foam insert replacement with 24% recycled polyester and 40% renewable resource-derived nanocrystalline cellulose fibers.

#### **Consumer Benefits**

Environmentally Friendly: Peace of mind from reducing your environmental impact

> Economical: Cost optimized technology with reduced sensitivity to petroleum cost fluctuation

Crafted Durability: Seating systems retain their crafted appearance throughout their life

#### **Program Advantages**

Environmentally Friendly: Reduced volatile organic compound emissions (VOC) than some alternatives

Renewable Resource Derived: Made with 40% bio-derived nano-crystalline cellulose fibers

Recycled: Made from 24% recycled polyester

Exclusive Emerging Technology: Lear patents pending



### SoyFoam<sup>™</sup>/Eco-Foam<sup>™</sup> Global Development Timeline

Year	Soy Content by weight			Status
2007	<u>TDI</u> 5%	<u>TM</u> -	<u>MDI</u> -	- First to market '08 Ford Mustang
2008	5%	-	14%	- 14% MDI for small parts (H/R, A/R) Ford, Chrysler, GM approved
2010	5%	-	14%	- 5% Hyundai seating and Ford Explorer/Fusion/Lincoln/Taurus
2011	5%	-	15%	- 15% MDI Head Restraints – Ford (Fusion/Lincoln) , GM
2013	<b>10%</b>	-	15%	- 10% TDI material approved NA Tier 1
2014	20 %	5%	40%	- SoyFoam™ & Eco-Foam™ global target

### Global Environmental Commitment

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## **Global Diversified Customer Base**



# Product – Lear SoyFoam<sup>™</sup>



## What Does Sustainability Mean at Lear?

