

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Promotional Products Association International Names U.S. Representative Fred Upton (R-MI) 2018 Legislator Of The Year**

*PPAI To Present Representative Upton 2018 Legislator of the Year award at industry's L.E.A.D. (Legislative Education and Action Day) in Washington, D.C., May 16.*

IRVING, Texas, (April 27, 2018) – **Promotional Products Association International** (PPAI; [ppai.org](http://ppai.org)), the not-for-profit association for 500,000 industry professionals and more than 15,000 corporate members of the \$23.3 billion promotional products industry announced today Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) has been named the Association's 2018 [Legislator of the Year](#). The award will be presented during the PPAI Legislative Education and Action Day ([L.E.A.D.](#)), May 16-17, in Washington, D.C.

The PPAI Legislator of the Year Award is presented to a current member of Congress who has demonstrated a high level of interest and support of the promotional products industry, our members and their businesses, and pending legislation which could affect our industry and our members.

“PPAI is honored to present the PPAI Legislator of the Year Award to Rep. Upton, for his commitment to help grow and strengthen small businesses,” said Paul Bellantone, CAE, PPAI president and CEO. “The Representative's work in support of issues important to our small business owners and our industry have been essential in helping us grow, protect and advocate for our industry.

Frederick Stephen Upton is the U.S. Representative for Michigan's 6th congressional district, serving since 1987. Throughout his career in public service, Upton has been a strong, independent voice for Michigan's families and small businesses. He has focused on uniting communities by supporting a stronger economy, good-paying jobs, affordable health care, a secure retirement and a fair chance for everyone to succeed.

In Upton's home state of Michigan, 97 percent of promotional products companies are small businesses employing more than 8,000 and generating revenues of more than \$465 million.

The PPAI Legislator of the Year Award is presented as part of the PPAI Legislative Education and Action Day (L.E.A.D.) when PPAI leadership and industry professionals visit Washington, D.C., for the ninth annual L.E.A.D. event. Nearly 80 advocates will conduct more than 200 meetings with senators, congressional representatives and their legislative staffs from all 50 states on Capitol Hill to discuss pending legislation and issues relevant to the promotional products industry.

Past recipients of the PPAI Legislator of the Year award are Representative Tim Murphy (R-PA), 2012; Representative Erik Paulsen (R-MN), 2013; Representative Renee Ellmers (R-NC), 2014; Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI), 2015; Representatives Steven Chabot (R-OH) and Greg Walden (R-OR), 2016; and Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) in 2017.

## About PPAI

Founded in 1903, the Promotional Products Association International ([PPAI](#); [ppai.org](#)) is the world's largest and oldest not-for-profit association serving more than 15,000 corporate members of the \$23.3 billion promotional products industry which is comprised of more than 40,500 businesses and a workforce of more than 500,000 professionals. PPAI represents the industry in Washington, D.C., and [advocates](#) on its behalf. PPAI operates The PPAI Expo, the industry's largest trade show; provides the leading [promotional products safety and compliance program](#), a prestigious [professional development and certification](#) program; and publishes industry [trade journals and publications](#). The multibillion-dollar [industry](#) includes wearables, writing instruments, calendars, drinkware and many other items, usually imprinted with a company's name, logo or message. For more information, visit [PPAI.org](#) and find us on Twitter [@PPAI\\_HQ](#), [Facebook](#), Instagram, [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#).

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