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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**2017 SUBARU FORESTER GETS COMPREHENSIVE UPGRADE WITH
GREATER COMFORT AND NEW SAFETY FEATURES**

- **New Driver Assist Technologies**
- **Improved Fuel Economy**
- **Turbo Model Now Features Torque Vectoring**
- **New Siri® EyesFree Available**

Cherry Hill, N.J. – Subaru of America, Inc. has introduced a comprehensively updated Forester for 2017, giving its award-winning compact SUV revised styling, new driver assist technology, improved comfort, and better fuel economy. The 2017 Subaru Forester builds on the reputation for responsible engineering, sure-footedness and all-conditions performance firmly established by the previous-generation models.

All 2017 Forester models come standard with Subaru Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, a distinction from competitive models that come with front-wheel drive as standard and offer all-wheel drive as an extra-cost option.

The 2017 Forester exterior receives several updates including a refined front bumper cover for naturally aspirated models, along with a new hexagonal grille. The redesigned headlights have a sleeker look with Subaru's signature C-shaped motif and a black inner bezel, while the rear combination lights also feature a prominent C shape with LED illumination.

A body-color rear spoiler, already standard for Limited, Touring and 2.0 XT Premium models, is now also standard on the 2.5i Premium.

Inside, the revised 2017 Forester Touring offers an all-new Saddle Brown perforated leather-trimmed upholstery option with contrast stitching. This exclusive choice also brings matching brown leather trim to the door panels, center console storage box lid and other interior details. An available Sepia Bronze Metallic exterior color is exclusive to the 2017 Touring models. All 2017 Forester models feature an updated steering wheel design with audio, Bluetooth® and cruise control switches.

Two new aluminum alloy wheel designs have been added, each featuring a high-contrast black and machined finish. The new 17-in wheels are standard on 2.5i Premium and Limited models, while the new 18-in wheel design is standard on 2.0XT trims.

Enhanced Driver Assist and Safety

For the 2017, Forester received an updated version of EyeSight® Driver Assist Technology that incorporates new color cameras that provide a wider, longer field of vision. The safety system, rated “Superior” by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), integrates Adaptive Cruise Control, Automatic Pre-Collision Braking and Lane Departure and Sway Warning.

Also included with EyeSight is Lane Keep Assist, which can gently guide the vehicle back to the center of its lane if sway is detected. Forester Limited and Touring models now include standard Blind Spot Detection / Rear Cross Traffic Alert, which warns of potential danger from a vehicle entering the driver’s blind spot or approaching from either side when backing up. Premium trims equipped with optional EyeSight now receive Blind Spot Detection / Rear Cross Traffic Alert.

For added night time visibility, newly available High Beam Assist works in conjunction with the EyeSight and automatically switches the headlights between the high and low settings based on driving conditions. Also standard on all Touring models and on 2.5i Limited with EyeSight, Steering Responsive Headlights aim the beams in the direction of travel to provide improved illumination around curves.

With a goal of “all-around safety,” 2017 Forester Limited and Touring models equipped with EyeSight also include Reverse Automatic Braking. This new preventative safety technology is designed to assist the driver by detecting large objects and to help avoid a possible collision when the vehicle is reversing at low speed. The system uses four ultrasonic sonar sensors in the rear bumper cover and can automatically stop the vehicle if the driver does not respond to audible and visual warnings.

For added nighttime security, Welcome Lighting is added as standard on the 2.5i Limited and Touring and both 2.0XT trims; it automatically activates cabin illumination and exterior lights as the driver approaches or departs the vehicle.

Enhanced Convenience and Comfort

New features and added soundproofing provide a more comfortable ride in the 2017 Forester. Thicker door glass and restructured door seals reduce wind noise, while added underfloor insulation and an acoustic windshield contribute further sound absorption to create a quieter, more refined cabin. A heated steering wheel, a first for the Forester line, as well as Keyless Access with Push-Button Start are now standard on all Touring models.

A power rear gate with automatic close and height memory, already standard on Limited and Touring, is now standard on the 2.5i Premium for 2017.

Performance, Handling and Capability

The Forester preserves the optimal blend of SUV capability and car-like ride and handling that have helped make this compact SUV the brand’s best-selling vehicle. The Forester’s four-wheel independent suspension system endows the vehicle with agile handling and compliant ride quality. The 8.7 inches of ground clearance for all models is greater than for many crossovers and SUVs, yet the Forester maintains a comfortably low step-in height.

The 2017 Forester 2.5i is available in base, Premium, Limited and Touring trims and is powered by a 170-hp 2.5-liter 4-cylinder BOXER engine. A 6-speed manual transmission is standard for the 2.5i and 2.5i Premium, with the Lineartronic® CVT optional for those models and standard for 2.5i Limited and Touring.

Powertrain revisions for 2017 resulted in improved fuel economy for 2.5i CVT models, which now achieve EPA fuel economy ratings of 26 MPG city / 32 MPG highway / 28 mpg combined versus 24 city / 32 highway / 27 combined for the 2016 model.

A quicker steering ratio gives the 2017 Forester better handling and response to driver inputs. New for 2017, Active Torque Vectoring, first introduced on the Subaru WRX® and WRX STI® performance models, is now standard on the Forester 2.0XT Touring with EyeSight. The system helps reduce understeer and keeps the vehicle on the driver's intended cornering path.

2.0XT: A Complete Performance Package

The 2.0-liter 4-cylinder Boxer engine in the 2.0XT, available in the Forester Premium and Touring trims, uses a combination of direct fuel injection, high compression, Dual Active Valve Control System (DAVCS) and turbocharging with an intercooler to achieve outstanding performance and efficiency. The engine produces 250 horsepower at 5,600 rpm, accompanied by a broad torque curve that peaks at 258 lb-ft over a 2,000-4,800 rpm engine speed range.

The Forester 2.0XT models feature Subaru Intelligent Drive (SI-DRIVE), a powertrain performance management system that allows the driver to tailor the vehicle's driving characteristics by choosing from among three selectable modes – Intelligent, Sport and Sport Sharp – using a switch on the steering wheel. With Intelligent mode selected, SI-DRIVE provides a more relaxed throttle response curve, making it useful for commuting in traffic, for example. Sport mode provides quick throttle responses and powerful, linear acceleration and also accesses a 6-speed manual mode for the CVT, via steering wheel paddle shift control switches. In Sport Sharp mode, SI-DRIVE modifies the engine's electronic throttle mapping to deliver even quicker throttle response and provides an 8-speed manual mode.

The 2.0XT models deliver even sharper handling responses from a sport-tuned suspension, with front springs that are 10-percent stiffer and rear springs 20-percent stiffer than those on the 2.5i models, along with exclusive chassis reinforcements. In addition, the 2.0XT models use larger brakes than the 2.5i models, with ventilated rotors front and rear.

Standard Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive with Off-Pavement Control Systems

The 2017 Forester line offers two versions of Subaru Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, each of which continuously powers all four wheels and can transfer more torque to the wheels with the best grip. Both versions integrate Vehicle Dynamics Control (VDC) to further enhance all-weather stability and traction but do not rely on VDC to distribute torque.

Forester 2.5i models equipped with the 6-speed manual transmission utilize a viscous-coupling locking center differential that distributes torque 50:50 and transfers more torque to the wheels with the best traction should slippage occur. In Forester models with the Lineartronic CVT, an electronically managed continuously variable transfer clutch – proprietary Subaru technology – actively manages torque distribution based on acceleration, deceleration, cornering and available traction. This Active All-Wheel Drive system automatically transfers more torque to the wheels with the best grip should slippage occur.

Subaru's driver-selectable X-Mode is standard on all Premium, Limited and Touring models with CVT and incorporates Hill Descent Control. When engaged, X-Mode optimizes control of the engine, transmission shift pattern, Active AWD front/rear clutch force, brakes and VDC to optimize wheel control on slippery surfaces and steep inclines.

SUBARU STARLINK™ Connected Services

The Forester Premium, Limited and Touring trims offer the SUBARU STARLINK Safety and Security features. Two STARLINK packages are available and are among the most affordable in the industry. The STARLINK Safety Plus package that includes SOS Emergency Assistance, Enhanced Roadside Assistance, Automatic Collision Notification, Maintenance Notifications, Monthly Vehicle Health Report and Diagnostic Alerts.

For even greater peace of mind, the STARLINK Safety Plus & Security Plus Package adds Stolen Vehicle Recovery Service, Vehicle Security Alarm Notification, Remote Lock/Unlock, Remote Horn and Lights and Remote Vehicle Locator.

STARLINK Multimedia Systems

All Forester trim lines for 2017 feature SUBARU STARLINK Multimedia systems that provide hands-free connectivity and entertainment services. The in-vehicle platform provides owners with more sources of entertainment and information through seamless smartphone integration.

The 2017 Forester 2.5i base model features the STARLINK 6.2" Multimedia system with a 6.2-inch single-touch gesture display, AM/FM stereo with HD Radio®, Radio Data Broadcast System, single-disc CD player, Bluetooth® hands-free phone connectivity and audio streaming, iPod® control, iTunes® Tagging, a USB port and an auxiliary input jack. Smartphone integration features Aha™ and Pandora®, along with STARLINK cloud applications iHeart® Radio, Stitcher™, Calendar, Music Player, News and Weather. The screen also provides the display for the standard rear vision camera.

On the Premium, Limited and Touring trims, the standard STARLINK 7.0" Multimedia Plus system, which uses a high-resolution 7-inch LCD screen, adds Siri EyesFree mode allowing drivers to use voice commands through the vehicle infotainment system for Siri on their iPhone. In addition, STARLINK 7.0" Multimedia includes Bluetooth hands-free SMS text messaging and dual USB ports and adds four months of free SiriusXM All Access Radio and SiriusXM Travel Link®.

The optional STARLINK 7.0" Multimedia Navigation system features voice-activated controls and comes with three years of complimentary map updates as well as a 3-year subscription to SiriusXM Traffic® and SiriusXM Travel Link® along with four months of SiriusXM All Access Radio.

Renowned Subaru Value

The generously equipped Forester 2.5i comes standard with a tilt/telescopic steering column, STARLINK 6.2" Multimedia system, rear vision camera, Incline Start Assist, security system with engine immobilizer, carpeted floor mats, multi-function display, Bluetooth hands-free phone connectivity and audio streaming with steering wheel control switches and more.

The 2.5i Premium adds STARLINK 7.0" Multimedia, a panoramic power moonroof, 17-in. alloy wheels, 10-way power driver's seat, reclining rear seatback, dark tint privacy rear

glass, and more. The All-Weather Package, which includes heated front seats, heated side mirrors and a windshield wiper de-icer, comes standard with the 2.5i Premium with 6-speed manual transmission and is optional for the CVT-equipped Premium.

The 2.5i Limited includes the All-Weather Package and makes the CVT standard, as well. This luxurious model also features perforated leather-trimmed seats, leather-wrapped steering wheel and shifter, fog lights, automatic climate control system, Welcome Lighting, power rear gate, and more. In addition to including all the Limited trim's content, the Touring adds a Harman/Kardon premium audio system, HID headlights, electroluminescent instrument cluster with LCD display, Keyless Access with Push-Button Start, a one-touch folding rear seatback and more.

The Foundation of Subaru Safety

The Forester is built around the company's proven ring-shaped reinforcement frame design. Safety features that debuted on the new-generation model include anti-whiplash front seats, a driver's knee airbag, Brake Override and an impact-sensing fuel system cutoff. The Brake Override System cuts engine power if the driver applies both the brake and accelerator beyond a certain threshold.

All Forester models feature as standard equipment front seat side impact airbags and side curtain airbags that offer additional head protection for front and rear occupants. Intelligent dual-stage deployment front airbags use sensors to determine airbag deployment strength for optimal occupant protection. A rollover sensor activates the seat belt pre-tensioners and deploys the curtain airbags if it detects potential vehicle rollover.

Subaru of America, Inc.

Subaru of America, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. of Japan. Headquartered at a zero-landfill office in Cherry Hill, N.J., the company markets and distributes Subaru vehicles, parts and accessories through a network of more than 620 retailers across the United States. All Subaru products are manufactured in zero-landfill production plants and Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc. is the only U.S. automobile production plant to be designated a backyard wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. For additional information visit media.subaru.com.

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