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of legislation that removed an ex-



A new full-scale demonstration facility in Leetonia, Ohio, shows off automated-parking technology that allows several cars simultaneously to move independently throughout a multilevel parking structure. With the patented Modular Automated Parking System (MAPS), developed by Robotic Parking, Inc., a visitor simply drives a car onto a pallet in a bay about the size of a residential, single-car garage; parks and locks the car; and retrieves a parking ticket from a designated ticketing machine outside the facility, Robotic Parking reports. The system automatically secures the car and closes the garage door, then moves the car through the parking structure via a computerized system of pallets, lifts, and carriers. A fuzzy logic application helps optimize the movement of the carriers and lifts, increasing the speed of vehicle movement by as much as 300% compared with



the mechanical parking technologies used in Europe and Asia since the late 1950s, Robotic Parking says. To retrieve the car, the visitor reinserts the parking ticket into the machine outside the facility, and the system locates and moves the car through the garage to the exit bay, where the visitor is waiting. In most cases, the car is retrieved within 60 seconds and arrives in a forward-facing position for ease of departure.



creating a letter-writing campaign by hundreds of PEs for convincing the Senate and House to approve the FEMC bill—with just minutes remaining in the legislative session.

“That’s what took it from a little, special-interest thing to something that demanded attention,” says Barton. “If we hadn’t gotten