

BRUCE ORMAND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Greetings everyone,

2011 has arrived right on schedule whether we like it or not and so did the drastic changes in the weather. I told my wife that I have escalated from dislike to an all out hate for cold weather. It must have to do with me getting old! How in the world did all of us “winter-up” for this Artic weather in Texas.

As many of you know, the 82nd Legislative session is up and running at full speed and there is a lot of activity happening. There are now 3 bills that have been submitted regarding scrap recyclers and how they do business. The theft of metals has become a real issue with the increase in theft of these items. We are reviewing the bills (HB 249,HB 87 and HB 1024) to evaluate any direct adverse effect on our industry but still make sure that this “runaway train” is stopped. I for one have had between 150-200 catalytic converters and two vehicles stolen from my property in the last 6 months.

Of course this year the budget and redistricting will be the hot topics. You may recall last time we had redistricting, a group of politicians fled the state of Texas and went to Oklahoma and New Mexico in protest of the redistricting. Minding the “legislative ship” in Austin has made me aware that nothing is surprising. I continue to regularly meet with our lobbyist, CJ Tredway, who keeps the interests of our industry before the legislature and advocates our positions.

One of the things that burdens my heart is the fact that salvage costs continue to escalate to exorbitant prices and it seems as if there is nothing that can be done. Hold that thought! I am of the belief that while change may not be swift, there is real hope on the horizon and it is imperative that we continue on.

TARA is making great strides in communicating with various agencies to bring positive change to the industry. TARA has just finished meeting with the TCEQ and Scrap Recyclers to remain in the Aircheck program and many of the changes on the manifest were at the request of TARA.

The statement that evil prevails when good men do nothing still applies today and the message even today is to "keep on keeping on" and give back to your industry. Till next time everyone have a great day. Thanks Bruce