

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 5, 2009

Well, 2008 has come to an end and 2009 is well on its way. TARA is excited about the possibilities of the 2009 Legislative Session and the great things that can be accomplished to help our industry. In my last report, I discussed our plans to set up our advisory board at TDLR. The rumor is circulating that "TDLR is going to take over our lives and that they will have too much control over our industry."

Well *nothing* could be further from the truth! We have cleaned up our existing laws and have only added requirements to getting the Used Auto Parts Recycler License. Currently anybody, without a criminal record, can send in their \$95.00 and get a license. With the **new** Used Auto Parts Recyclers License, it will require the applicant to show proof of their Storm Water runoff permit, proof of liability insurance, proof of ownership or lease agreement and a Tax I.D. number.

TDLR does require annual ongoing training before they will accept any industry but with that being said we are going to keep it to a minimum of 2 to 4 hours. Yes, I know that you know about your business, but this is a requirement that TDLR makes and we feel this is a great trade off for being able to move out of TXDOT. According to the most recent Sunset Report, it appears our industry is going to be moved and quite possibly to Texas Department of Motor Vehicle. TXDOT has done nothing to enforce the laws that are on the books. Our industry cannot afford another five, ten or twenty years of apathy from a governing body that cares nothing about us.

There are currently only 350 salvage yards that have a storm water runoff license in Texas-- not a very good compliance ratio. We have personally met and discussed this in length with the TCEQ and there aren't any plans to ramp up enforcement in our industry. Storm water runoff has been around for over 10 years and this all the compliance that they have been able to achieve. We need to get all Used Auto Parts Recyclers complying with this law.

This bill is about consumer protection. With the requirement of liability insurance, it will protect customers at these businesses also. One of the other requirements will be to declare to the public if you are selling a salvage vehicle and what kind of title they will be receiving. The bill takes great steps to help clean up the bad players of our industry. Enforcing the current laws on the books, which we do, is what this bill is designed to do, not to put anyone out of business..

While we know this bill won't solve all problems and there will be some who slip through the cracks, it will do much more for us in regard to enforcement.

If anyone has questions or concerns please feel free to call me or Tim Straney and we will try to answer any concerns you have. The last thing I want is anybody just taking someone else's word about this matter. We are an open book and our goal is to do what's best for our industry.

TARA Legislative Director

Bruce Orman
1-800-426-5385