

T.A.R.A. Legislative Report

September 14, 2009

Greetings to all you fellow TARA members. Hope all is going well for everyone. What a busy summer this has been. After convention, our daughter got married and had a separate reception and just as things seemed to be settling down---- Cash 4 Clunkers hit. As many of you know TDLR has selected the advisory board and if not, I have attached the letter so you know who all is on the board. This is going to be a tremendously important task to our industry to continue what our newly passed bill SB1095 has started. The great thing about our advisory board is that it is made up of people from our industry.

The one question that almost everyone keeps asking me is, are we going to have equal representation or is TDLR going target the normal yard? Let's expound on the normal yards..... one of the biggest gripes that we all have had is that TCEQ has only followed up with the yards that submitted for their storm water permits. That did not make any sense. Why check on the yards that are attempting to comply and not do anything about the ones who do nothing? TCEQ's explanation was that "they didn't know where the noncompliant yards were." Well, we didn't want that to be an excuse so we had TXDOT send us a list for every yard that has a used part salvage license. Our findings were that there are over 1300 businesses that have a current used part salvage license and over 1000 have never applied for their storm water permit.

So we have supplied TDLR the list of 1363 licensed used part salvage dealers so that they have a complete list of all the license holders. This will help ensure equal compliance for all.

Lobbyist

That brings me to our next subject----- CJ Tredway. We are fortunate to have CJ as our lobbyist. She has a great relationship with many of the Legislators and their staffs. She carries a great deal of integrity and passion for her clients. Having worked with her for over a year, I can honestly say that she is the person we need to help us carry out our mission. What can

you do? *Thought you would never ask!* The advisory board is made up of people willing to sacrifice their time without pay because they feel the need to help this industry out. While CJ is a great asset to us, working as a lobbyist is how she makes a living. I believe that it will take between 3-5 years to make the changes that we need and see them through. That being said it will take **money**. TARA's membership is currently just over a 100 and growing but cannot sustain the cost of a lobbyist without adding new members. That will come in time. So until then I am asking for Legislative partners to help offset the monthly cost of \$3100.00 a month for CJ. We currently already have over \$600.00 dollars a month pledged but we need more. IT'S TIME TO STAND UP AND BE INVOLVED. So I'm asking for every TARA member to make a monthly pledge. \$5.00,\$10.00, \$25.00,\$50.00,\$100.00 or more a month. We can do it by monthly billing or auto debit for a credit card. Checks can be paid with a company check and do not have to be from personal accounts. We all have sat and complained to one another about what is happening and something should be done. Well something is being done and you have the opportunity to be a part.

I BEG OF YOU, DONT BE ONE OF THOSE THAT DOESN'T GET INVOLVED. For the last twenty years, we have taken it on the chin and done nothing. Well I say the buck stops here and we draw our line in the sand. Will everything be perfect? Will we solve all of our problems? Probably not, but we can sure make changes that will ensure the future for future generations to come. Don't make me beg because you know I will.

I look forward to hearing from everyone and that we will meet our goal of \$3100.00 a month. I want to express my gratitude to everyone that has already pledged and to those that have worked so hard to help bring change to our industry. I want to remind everyone about the mid-year conference on **January 16, 2009** in Houston.(Check our website www.texasara.com) Again thank you in advance, I know that you will respond to the challenge and we will meet this goal. If you have any questions feel free to call me or contact Cheryl Lambright, the Executive Director at (800-710-8272 or txautorecyclers@gmail.com) to make your pledge.

TARA Legislative Director

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