

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT - BRUCE ORMAND

Greeting to one in all. Lots is going on in the legislative world. As many of you know the Texas Legislature is in session and it is probably going to cost you money! Ok, there's good news and bad news-- the bad news is that they just passed S.B. 1759856512317 and we will no longer will be able to sell used automotive parts but the good news is that we can now all take a well deserved vacation. (**JUST KIDDING!!!!**) The reality is that TARA's Legislative committee has been unusually busy monitoring multiple bills this session. All these bills are available for your review at [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us) Following is a brief synopsis on the major bills:

**H.B.1422--** Bill to help salvage pools get salvage or nonrepairable titles quicker if the insurance companies deny the claim on a vehicle in the possession of the Salvage Pool and the vehicle is abandoned there. TARA negotiated with IAA that the owner or lien holder would have 30 days to pick up the denied claim vehicle at no charge to them. If the vehicle is left over 30 days then the Salvage Pool will be able to sell the vehicle and recover their cost and any monies that are over their cost will be mailed to the owner, lien holder or if neither are available the funds go to the state of Texas.

**H.B. 405--** Deals with the disposing of scrap tires. This bill has undergone lots of changes and is still being worked on. The author of the bill is from El Paso and they are having a lot of trouble with illegal disposing of tires in their area. This bill was designed to put penalties in place to help counties go after the illegal activity.

**H.B. 2357 –** Bill that the DMV has been working on to create electronic titling versus just paper work. We believe this will certainly help the work load for DMV and make it easier for dealers to do title transfers.

**H.B. 87, H.B. 249, H.B 1024,H.B.1933 and S.B 694** are all bills dealing with metal scrap recycling businesses, and the biggest thing that we have tried to make sure of is that language regarding catalytic converters was correct. Original language did not exempt converters still attached to vehicles.

There are other bills that we continue to monitor and as needs arise we will contact the members and keep you informed.

TARA continues to make great connections with different state agencies and departments and their staff The TARA legislative committee is looking forward to continue working with the different state agencies to help with salvage rules and laws. Unfortunately, we had lost some key contacts over the years, and combining that with the fact that the old TXDOT just became too obstinate to work with allowed some bad regulation to be passed. We are excited and look forward to the future and the contribution that TARA will be able to make. As TARA's Legislative director our goal has been and continues to be "to level the playing field" and to help the legitimate business owners. It is the legitimate business owners that are the backbone of the economy, between the people we employ and the vendors that we spend money with. Make no mistake, you are vital to the Texas economy and your voice does matter. I was asked not long ago if all is lost and my reply was -not just no--- but **heck no**. We get so much more done as a united front and working as a team. True we will never agree on everything but we always work to the common good of everyone.