

# **T.A.R.A. Legislative Report**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2009**

## ***Evil prevails when good men do nothing!!!***

*Greetings* to everyone. Hope all is going well. Like many of you, we have been trying to handle all of the fall out from Cash4Clunkers. Good program for the recyclers (short term) but a lot of work. To bring everyone up to date as to how things are going, I would have to say.... "well".

TDLR has contacted the Advisory Board members and is setting up meetings to go over SB1095 and to help them implement it for our industry. Believe it or not, we actually have a say in our industry for a change. So we are all excited in what the future holds and the effect we can have in leveling the playing field for the legitimate recyclers. For those that don't know we are now officially called **Used Automotive Parts Recyclers. (UAPR)**. This name and the fact that we are under TDLR instead of TXDOT, sets us apart from all other salvage licenses.

For those that have not heard, Don's Auto Parts in Mercedes TX was raided and found to have over 200lbs of Marijuana on their property. Don Anderson had sold his business a year or so ago and it seems that the new owners had more in mind than just selling auto parts. Now you may think this is an isolated issue and not that common but let me assure you that because the recycling industry has had so little enforcement of any laws and no accountability, we have become one of the industries of choice to funnel drug money through.

Here is another sample of what is going on in our neighboring country.

**Mexican drug lord reputed to be hiding in mountains has been named the world's 41st most powerful man - ahead of French president Nicolas Sarkozy and Russia's Dmitry Medvedev.**

Forbes Magazine includes Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman in its list of the world's most powerful people. It notes his profession as "drug trafficker."

Guzman reputedly heads one of Mexico's most powerful drug gangs and is on the country's most wanted list, with a \$2.3 million government reward offered for information leading to his capture.

As head of the Sinaloa Cartel, Guzman reportedly has legions of hit-men and enforcers at his command.

So you think we don't need change. HMMMMMMMMMMMM

As I have been saying in the prior letters, **NOW IS THE TIME TO DO SOMETHING**. Which leads me into a giant *THANK YOU* to all of the members that have pledged their monthly support to the legislative fund. Again, thank you -----helping makes this work possible.

All of us have had this discussion about how bad things are and yet some are unwilling to commit to do anything. Oh, I've heard all the excuses----- "*I'm too busy*". "*Money's tight*" or the best one ----- "*I'll call you back*" (Think I'm a little rough - huh) but if you can't commit to a mere \$25.00 dollars a month to help protect and change your industry, we are all in trouble. Don't get me wrong, if you just can't-- you just can't, but the rest of you, I am asking for less than a dollar a day. Some members have pledged as much as \$100.00 a month. Come on and be a part of helping to change your industry.

**REMINDER** On January 16, 2009, TARA is having our State Law Compliance Seminar. Please make arrangements to attend. TDLR will be there to answer questions about the new license procedures as well as others, ADD & Audatex for the NMVTIS and someone there to help with the Storm Water Compliance questions as well. The meeting will be held in Houston TX at H & H Ranch. Call 800-710-8272 to register or visit [www.texasara.com](http://www.texasara.com) for the registration form and get all the information you need. By the way I want to thank Ronnie Patke on doing a fantastic job on the website. Again THANKS to everyone that has responded with your support and we look forward to 100% participation from our members.

**Legislative Director**

Bruce Ormand