



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT APRIL 1, 2006

The PARTS Legislative Committee met on Thursday, February 16, 2006 via phone conference. The following issues were discussed:

1. **Towing & Storage of Abandoned Vehicles** - Mike Berk has been working with Mike Darrah (Darrah's Automotive Recycling, York) to resolve a dispute between the local salvors and a district magistrate who refuses to collect the processing and storage fees from owners of abandoned vehicles.

Over the past couple of months, Mike Berk and Mike Darrah have met with Rep. Ron Miller (R-York) to discuss this issue. In February, Mike Berk met with the PA Towers Association on this issue as well. PARTS is in the process of drafting legislative language that would accomplish the following:

- ✓ Require the district magistrate to collect processing and storage fees from owners of abandoned vehicles.
- ✓ Increase of \$15 reimbursement to salvor for removal and towing to \$100 and add an annual automatic cost of living adjustment so we do not have to revisit this issue.
- ✓ Provide for reimbursement to salvors for disposal of hazardous materials

2. **Waste Tires – HB 1114** – Mike Berk reported that HB 1114 was unanimously approved by both the state Senate and House of Representatives. There is concern with regards to the definition of “waste tire recycling facility.” It was our understanding that the bill would only apply to those facilities whose primary function was the “systemic collection and processing, etc...of waste tires.” Mike Berk will be discussing this issue with DEP staff to get some written clarification on this issue.
3. **Mercury Switches** –Mike Berk will participate in a meeting on February 28, 2006 with Senator Piccola to discuss the status of Senate Bill 524. Representatives from ISRI and the Steel Recycling Institute will also be in attendance. The purpose of the meeting is to determine whether there is any interest from Senator Piccola (and other Republican leaders in the Senate) to pressure Senator Mary Jo White to put the bill on her committee's agenda. Mike reported that the voluntary program now being administered by PARTS has 39 participants, a gain of eight participants since January.

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4. **Reconstructed Vehicles** – The Advisory Panel created by HB 2066 has completed its work and a summary of its recommendations is expected soon. According to Al Gouglar, it appears as if we got what we needed from the panel including:

- Locally owned inspection stations – all current inspection stations will have an opportunity to apply to do R-Inspections.
- The ability to walk out of the inspection facility with the sticker, registration and tags if all the proper paperwork is completed.

We are still waiting to see if inspection stations will be required to obtain special training and/or equipment to participate in the program. The program is targeted to begin in January 2007.

5. **Salvage Certificates** – Ken Luckock, Dave Jordan, Ron Renick and Mike Berk met with representatives from PENNDOT on January 4. The main focus of the discussions was salvage certificates. PENNDOT is working toward implementation of an electronic system that will track a vehicle from cradle to grave.

While PENNDOT officials were not supportive of our efforts to revamp the paper title, they did support an electronic process for processing salvage certificates and hoped to move in that direction in next couple of years. The tone of the discussions was positive and we are hoping to meet again on other issues as they arise.

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