

Industry



ARA Reaches Out to State Attorneys General Across the Country

Last week ARA reached out to all 50 state attorneys general taking proactive steps to address the highly publicized mischaracterizations about the professional automotive recycling industry recently made by some in the collision repair industry, media and in Congress.

In the letters, ARA referenced the February 11, 2015 Anderson Cooper 360 broadcast on CNN investigating alleged steering practices by insurance companies and expressed concern with the gross misrepresentations of genuine, recycled original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts portrayed in that broadcast.

ARA's letters highlighted several important facts about recycled OEM parts that are critical for state attorneys general and their staff to know so that public comments, press releases or actions taken by their office related to the professional automotive recycling industry and recycled OEM parts are well informed and support the full spectrum of parts choices. Facts highlighted for the attorneys general included: automobiles are among the most recycled commodities in today's marketplace and that the reutilization of quality OEM parts provide significant savings of natural resources; the reutilization of quality, OEM automotive parts is a \$32 billion industry in the United States; recycled parts play an important economic role in the marketplace and without their existence, many times there would be no alternative part options to an expensive "new" part available for hard working Americans - leaving them at the mercy of automakers who would be in a monopolistic position in setting the price for that part.

ARA will continue to educate policymakers at all levels about the complexity of issues involved in the automotive insurance and repair marketplace. ARA concluded the letters by asking for leadership from the attorneys general to ensure that quality OEM recycled parts that are important in the marketplace are not mischaracterized in a way that diminishes their utilization in the professional repair process. ARA also encourages state affiliate chapters to reach out to their state's chief legal official.