



Passage of U.S. Highway Bill in Sight

Both Chambers of the U.S. Congress have been working to finalize a long-term highway bill but found that they needed more time than the November 20 deadline allowed. A two-week extension was approved by Congress and the President until December 4th. The major policy issues that held up House and Senate conferee negotiations centered on long term funding issues and various trucking regulations amongst a host of other less contentious points. ARA staff is working around the clock to have House-passed language retained in the final bill that would provide professional automotive recyclers with electronic access to OEM parts data. As of this writing and in the coming days, ARA will be focused on retaining this language throughout the House-Senate conference committee deliberations.

ARA's task has not been an easy one: The amendment was one of over 250 considered, and one of the only 81 amendments cleared for debate. ARA's testimony delivered to the House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing & Trade hearing by ARA CEO Michael Wilson on October 21 helped further educate House members about the need for access to OEM part data to enhance vehicle safety.

The battle is far from over however. The House bill now in conference with the Senate-passed version (the Drive Act) must be reconciled in a merged bill that can be brought back to both chambers for a final vote and sent to the President for his signature - all by Dec. 4th. You can be assured that ARA will work nonstop to keep this language in the final bill and will keep you apprised of the latest activities.