



## MAINE AUTO RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION

97A Exchange St., Ste 305  
Portland, ME 04101  
Tel: 207-752-1392 • Fax: 888-612-0941  
E-mail: [feedalliance@gwi.net](mailto:feedalliance@gwi.net)

April 6, 2025

Re: LD 1165, An Act to Create a Fund for Safe Disposal of Hazardous Fluids from Salvage Yards

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

I am submitting this testimony on behalf Maine's Auto Recyclers Association, of which I am the Executive Director. Our Association is a standard 501 c 3 nonprofit with approximately 50 members, representing virtually all of the larger firms in our vital industry and also a number of small family recycling entities.

Our Association has for years had an excellent working relationship with Maine DEP, dating back to establishing a mercury switch recycling program in partnership with DEP. This was the first such program in the country and generated national publicity, including a video which we undertook with DEP. We have more recently been working closely with Maine DEP on the Stormwater licensing program, with excellent results.

In recent month, we have been exchanging ideas with Maine DEP on how to more efficiently collect and dispose of the hazardous fluids that our members drain from the vehicles they take in. While auto recyclers are hardly the largest sector of commerce handling hazardous fluids, we want the Maine Auto Recyclers Association to continue to be the group whose members "Do Things Right".



## **MAINE AUTO RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION**

97A Exchange St., Ste 305

Portland, ME 04101

Tel: 207-752-1392 • Fax: 888-612-0941

E-mail: [feedalliance@gwi.net](mailto:feedalliance@gwi.net)

Establishing a fund to assist auto recyclers in meeting the high cost of hazardous fluid disposal is a recognition that we all operate in an imperfect world. Otherwise there would not be issues of old tires, refrigerators, and other materials being improperly “dumped”. Several decades ago, the price of scrap metal skyrocketed, and numerous fly-by-night operators with pickup trucks were hauling abandoned cars out of fields, emptying the fluids in gravel pits, and bringing the vehicles to the Schnitzer scrap yard on Marginal Way in Portland. Our MARA newsletter photographed the long line of pickup and flatbed trucks, hauling these abandoned vehicles, lined up in front of the Schnitzer facility waiting for it to open. The photos were titled: “The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly. The City of Portland fined several of these haulers for dumping waste fluids into street drains.

LD 1165 is a proactive approach to a problem with now exists as some auto recycling yards exit what is now a very competitive business environment, with many small family firms retiring. We urge that your Committee give this bill, and possible alternative approaches, your full consideration.

Bill Bell  
Executive Director

Bill Bell  
Maine Auto Recyclers Association  
LD 1165