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To whom it may concern: My name is Shawn Robert and I'm from Roberts auto center inc . in bowdoinham Maine . My connection to this proposed bill is I was affected by the cost of hazardous waste removal when I was closing up the salvage portion of my business. I decided to close the salvage yard that I have run since the 90's because the business has changed a lot since Covid and most newer cars cannot be worked on by the average person because of the technology so they don't fix them which means they don't need the used parts and the ones that can fix their own cars buys their used parts from the internet. The public can buy new parts from China for same price my used parts sell for . With the rising cost of worker's compensation, DEP storm water permit increases every year and cost of insurance and finding employees that are dependable has been a challenge . So September of 2023 I decided that enough was enough so I made the very hard decision to close the salvage yard . I'm still operating my business but now I'm only selling used cars .I have one employee now and it's a salesman position , compared to 14 years ago I had 10 employees. Like I said a lot has changed in this industry . So when I closed the salvage yard I was crushing nearly 800 cars and out of those 800 cars most of them had bad fuel in them . When salvage yards buys junk cars we have no idea on how much fuel that we are inheriting with them . Some hardly have any and some have full tanks . We try to use as much good fuel in our yard vehicles but by DEP rules we can only have so much on hand at any one time . So it forces us to have to pay to remove good fuel too . In Maine it seems when someone's car breaks down or they decide not to fix it they park their now junk car behind their house or next to driveway and they sit there for long periods of time or until they get tired of looking at it (usually just before the first snowstorm) then they rush for a salvage yards to come get it . By that time the fuel has gone bad and we can't reuse it . After crushing the 800 or so cars I had on hand I ended up with 60 barrels of 55 gallon drums full of bad gas and 30 barrels of 55 gallons of antifreeze . I called DEP as we have a great relationship with and asked them if there was a fund to help with the cost of removal of all the hazardous waste for business like mine . They sent down a DEP specialist to my yard and they did look at the quantity that I had on hand and they were a little taken back because of the amount i had at one time , I explained to them this was because I was closing the salvage yard and every Car was being crushed . They told me that the way I handled the bad gas/ antifreeze was very good and they wished that everyone did it the way I had done . I was happy to hear that as all of us in this industry try to do it right . But unfortunately there was no fund to help with the removal . I was getting quotes for over 20,000.00 through clean harbors. I ended up using Gaftek which cost me less . I did use clean harbors for some of the removal only cause I hadn't known of Gaftek at this point . So it ended costing me just over 15,000.00 to have all of it picked up . That was a lot to come up with for such a small business . I was doing it right as most of us in this industry does . So that's when I thought : wait I'm doing a service for my community . Every junk car has to have a place to go . By the time we buy the car , pay for the tow and pay a employee to service that car (drain fluids , battery , tires and wheels and then to the office part of that car title preparation and enter every car in the computer twice as we are required to send that info to the federal government is a lot of overhead per car . The average junk car we purchase is 250.00 and let's say the average crush weight per ton is 150.00 per ton (that amount varies depending on steel demand , it can be higher and can be lower) but the average car / trucks averaged out is 3000.00 pounds which is 1 1/2 ton so that gives u roughly 300.00 bucks per car crushed . So if parts is longer a player in your business then u can see there is not much left on the bone for the owner profit wise . Then we have to pay for hazardous waster removal on top of all that . So that's why I thought if every new car sold added 100.00 to each new car sold (exempt used cars) then everyone is adding to the fund . When u go buy a new car the first thing the dealer does when u are with the under writer in the back office is the tech goes and tops off your fuel at

the gas station . So in reality if u are paying that 100 bucks extra now u really are only paying for your first fill up . That's where the hazardous waste process starts as soon as u drive it off the lot . It shouldn't be put upon the salvage yards only to pay for it as all of us in this industry has had to in the past . If u go have your car worked on either by a bodyshop or a repair shop on your final invoice u will see a line item that u are being charged for . Hazardous waste removal fee . I'm sure some of u have paid that on your repair bills recently . So those businesses are getting funds for it already but salvage yards don't have that ability to collect it . If this bill did pass I think that one new staff member could handle it through Maine revenue service. All of us business owners have a sales tax number and we fill out that form every month and on that form is columns for how many batteries were sold , How many tires etc . And much revenue we collected . So new car dealers would just have to list how many new cars on a separate line and then times that by 100.00 bucks per car sold . So unfortunately Salvage yards are a dying industry and no towns want them but they are needed cause every car needs a place to go at the end of their life . Several salvage yards have closed up in the past 15 years . Can u imagine having no salvage yards ? What would everyone do ? I know ! everyone's yards would be filled with unwanted cars and eventually they will drip fluids . I don't have the information on this but I haven't heard of any new junk yards opening up recently only ones closing . I know It could take a year or so to get money into an account (kinda like the new sick leave bill) but it will help all those mom and pop salvage yards with their high costs of the removal of the waste . There the ones doing it right and keeping Maine clean ! In closing I would like to Thank you for your time and the opportunity to give my input on this really important bill . It's really appreciated again thank u . Shawn Robert