

TESTIMONY ON WASTE TIRES IN PENNSYLVANIA

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PA House Majority Caucus Room (Room 140)

**PA House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee
Public Hearing**

By

Jeff A. McNelly, President/CEO

Pennsylvania Automotive Recycling Trade Society (PARTS)

the importance of recycling.

Our industry has a history of finding an economical "recycling" value in most used automotive components. However, current market place conditions make certain automotive parts very difficult or impossible to "recycle." The waste tire is one such difficult component which is and has been for the past few decades not only difficult to recycle, but even difficult to discard.

In spite of some of the "ideas" being "developed", or the "hope" for a future waste tire market, the reality is that today there does not exist any economical, feasible way to recycle waste tires in all Commonwealth market areas or districts commonly in Pennsylvania today. It still costs to dispose of waste tires even if they are transported to a tire utilization facility.

Many waste tires are stockpiled or dumped illegally because of the difficulty and expense involved in disposing of whole waste tires. It is our foremost hope, therefore, that this committee does not view all citizens with a pile of waste tires as a purposeful threat to our environment and society . . . rather, we would hope that they be viewed as a citizen with an unwanted waste product without a viable recycling or affordable disposal alternative.

It is our hope that this committee understands that often those who possess a pile of waste tires did not create the waste tire problem. Our members, and many other small businesses concerned with the problem of waste tires, do not profit from the manufacture or direct utilization of tires they must store and handle as a waste product.

The motoring public desires, and needs, tires that withstand severe weather conditions and increased traveling speeds. The tire manufacturers fill that desire and need by manufacturing sophisticated synthetic composition quality tires that do not readily decompose. It seems only logical, therefore, that those using the tires and those profiting from the sale of the tires, should share in the costs and development of programs to handle this product once it becomes a waste.

The solution to solving the waste tire problem is simple . . . reaching the solution is difficult. If the waste tire had a value, if tire recycling facilities paid citizens to return tires versus charging them a fee . . . we soon would witness the extinction of the waste tire from our environment.

It appears that today the waste tire uses which offer the highest potential consumption and beneficial return seem to be utilizing waste tires: (1) as a fuel, (2) as an additive to asphalt, (3) or as a substitute product in civil engineering or construction projects.

Most of these beneficial uses, however, suffer today from some negative cost factors . . . in essence it is still more cost effective to use natural occurring resources (oil, stone, etc.) versus the handling/chipping costs associated with tires.

We would like to suggest, for your consideration, that the extra costs associated with utilizing waste tires should be spent today . . . in hopes of reaching the solution for waste tires tomorrow.

These costs and any developments or solutions should directly involve all those citizens utilizing and profiting from the sale of new tires. Pennsylvania must serve as a leader in the recycling development and use of waste tire products. It must not only encourage waste tire shredding, or recycling, but also help create markets and a value for waste tires.

Thank you.