



**TESTIMONY OF
THE AUTO BODY ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT (ABAC)
BEFORE THE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 13, 2015
REGARDING
SB-869, AA ESTABLISHING A TIRE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

The Auto Body Association of Connecticut (ABAC), a statewide trade association of professionals dedicated to the advancement of the collision repair industry, through safe quality repairs for Connecticut consumers, respectfully submits the following comments regarding SB-869 as currently drafted:

In our industry, tire disposal is a problem for many collision repair shops. As such, the ABAC supports avenues for cost-effective and proper disposal of tires in an environmentally safe manner.

The ABAC wants to ensure, however, that the implementation and mechanics of any state tire stewardship program would not adversely impact our collision repair shops with undue costs and burdens and any participation by shops should remain completely voluntary. ABAC member shops are all small businesses and, like other small businesses, we are facing ever-increasing costs.

In addition, the ABAC has questions regarding the definition of “covered entity” under the bill (lines 7-9). Are collision repair shops and/or others who hold motor vehicle repair licenses to be considered an “automotive garage” (line 8) for purposes of this legislation?

We are also cognizant of the burdens and responsibilities that this type of legislation could possibly impose on our industry producers and want to make sure that extending producer responsibility down the supply chain will not drive up costs for all, including our valued customers/consumers.

The ABAC stands ready and willing to offer our industry expertise and input and work with the Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and all legislators on the Environment Committee on this legislation should it move forward. Please feel free to contact Anthony Ferraiolo of A&R Auto Body Specialty and Collision Works in Wallingford, ABAC President, or Andy Markowski of Statehouse Associates, LLC, ABAC Lobbyist, for more information.

Thank you for your consideration of the ABAC’s comments.

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