

Statement from: The Tire Industry Association

To: The Environment Committee (2/13/2015- regarding SB869)

The Tire Industry Association (TIA) is an international association representing all segments of the tire industry including those that manufacture, repair, recycle, sell, service, or use new or retreaded tires and also those suppliers who furnish equipment, material or services to the industry. TIA has a combined history that spans more than 90 years and has almost 8,000 members operating more than 30,000 locations.

The Tire Industry Association promotes and supports a competitive, market based system to manage the flow of scrap tires and scrap tire material. This free enterprise system of scrap tire management is highly successful today with a scrap tire recovery rate approaching 90%. We do not see a reason to disrupt the current system used for recycling these tires responsibly.

Based on the knowledge we have from within the industry, the shared responsibility approach to scrap tire management has been very successful in the United States. The number of scrap tires in stockpiles has decreased while the percentage of tires going into economically viable end use markets has increased. This trend shows a system that continues to work.

The free-market based shared responsibility approach has established a successful, stable scrap tire management infrastructure, regulated by state laws governing tire hauling, storage, processing and end-use markets to ensure the system is properly maintained and operated.

We believe Connecticut has a minimal scrap tire dumping problem, with very few stockpiles proving to be an environmental concern. Efforts to clean up these sites continue and have been successful. We believe Connecticut has no appreciable markets for scrap tires.

Establishing an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system in Connecticut would add costs and bureaucracy without any significant benefit. And moreover, displacing and bringing inefficiency to a well-functioning free market system.

The free-market based system in place today has created a self-sustaining scrap tire recycling industry with a stable infrastructure that is vibrant, competitive, and free market based.

TIA supports a competitive free market system that does not restrict, direct or interfere with the free flow of scrap tire recyclable materials from the point of generation to the final end use. Changing this system could result in increased costs to consumers while placing an unnecessary burden on tire retail locations.

