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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: May 11, 2009

ENVIRONMENT HARMED BY CARELESS DISPOSAL OF RECYCLED CAR PARTS

Congress Set to Needlessly Destroy Millions of Potential Replacement Car Parts

(Fairfax, VA) – Over the past week, environmentalists have been strongly expressing their disappointment regarding the “Cash for Clunkers” compromise legislation announced by Democrat lawmakers and President Barack Obama. In prominent media outlets such as the *NewYorkTimes.com*, they warn that the \$4 billion taxpayer-funded compromise provides little in oil savings or cuts to global warming pollution. Those who care about the environment should also be alarmed that the proposal paints a bull’s eye on the vehicle recycling industry.

Regrettably, the current Congressional “Cash for Clunkers” proposal seeks to restrict the recycling of two major replacement parts — the engine and transmission — harvested from vehicles turned in for end-of-life processing under the program. The reuse of recycled engine and transmission parts -- and not having to produce a new replacement part -- provides a huge benefit to the environment, the equivalent of what it takes to produce 50 million gallons of gasoline or the electrical usage of over 61,000 homes for a year. Not to mention, the manufacturing of a new car requires energy which in turn leads to greenhouse gas emissions like CO². It is estimated that when one drives a new car out of the showroom that car has already effectively emitted from 3 to 12 tons of CO².

American consumers and automobile repair businesses purchase these quality recycled vehicle components every day to keep their vehicles running. These businesses and consumers rely on parts from recycled vehicles because of their substantial savings in reduced repair costs and lower insurance premiums, savings from the purchase of a replacement vehicle, and also for the strong environmental benefits. In fact, these two parts alone typically account for some 50% to 60% of a professional automotive recycler’s sales — overall automotive recycling is a \$22 billion industry in the United States. Thus, Congress should understand the demand for such repair options, and consider the implications of restricting them.

“One would think that Congress would have learned a lesson from the recent home mortgage mess,” says Automotive Recyclers Association’s (ARA) Executive Vice President Michael E. Wilson. “Pushing consumers into vehicles that they cannot afford is not good for anyone – most of all the American taxpayer.” Wilson added, “The recovery, reuse, and resale of these quality recycled parts must remain readily available to the consumer, who may not want or be able to financially retire their vehicle, and will require access to parts from these vehicles for their future repairs.”

Since 1943, the Automotive Recyclers Association (“ARA”) represents an industry dedicated to the efficient removal and reuse of “green” automotive parts, and the proper recycling of inoperable motor vehicles. ARA represents over 4,500 auto recycling facilities in the United States and fourteen other countries around the world. With programs such as the Certified Automotive Recycler Program (CAR) and other partnerships, ARA members continue to provide consumers with quality, low-cost alternatives for vehicle replacement parts, while preserving our environment for a “greener” tomorrow.

To learn more about the Association, visit ARA’s Home Page at www.a-r-a.org or call (703) 385-1001.