



March 25, 2020

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear FEMA:

The Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA) represents over 4,500 professional automotive recyclers across the United States and in 14 countries internationally. Professional automotive recyclers remove and recycle automotive parts in an environmentally efficient and safe manner. The primary business model of professional automotive recycling entities includes acquiring total loss vehicles (salvage) along with other vehicles such as charity vehicles, older vehicles and end-of-life vehicles to harvest original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts for sale to service and repair facilities, consumers and other automotive industry stakeholders.

On behalf of the professional automotive recycling member facilities operating in the United States, I would like to offer our assistance to FEMA or any other governmental agency. As automakers temporarily close their manufacturing facilities and in some instances retool their production to much needed ventilators and other medical equipment, we may be likewise able to assist by providing parts that could be used in the production of viable, simplified ventilators. Our Canadian counterpart, the Automotive Recyclers of Canada, has likewise offered their assistance to various entities. They have also pointed out efforts such as an Ennomotive.com "Manufacturing ICU Ventilators Challenge" that will evaluate the quickest methods of producing ventilators using "the adaption of standard industrial components...or though other everyday-life objects whose availability is fast, easy, and universal".

Many local and state jurisdictions have deemed auto supply and repair facilities as "essential" during mandatory business closures and the DHS Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has included "automotive repair and maintenance facilities" and "employees who repair and maintain vehicles" within its guidelines for Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce. At this point in time, a great number of our recycling facilities remain open with safeguards implemented for employees and customers. If automotive parts would be helpful in the manufacturing of critical healthcare equipment, we stand ready to assist the government and our fellow Americans. For instance, there has been some early discussion within the industry that a wiper motor with a pulse setting might be a viable part to be repurposed.

Please let us know if there are further steps that we could make in partnering with FEMA, another Agency or industry segment to assist at this critical time. Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Sandy Blalock*

Sandy Blalock  
Executive Director

571-208-0428 [sandy@a-r-a.org](mailto:sandy@a-r-a.org)

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**ROE** - Recycled Original Equipment