



## Salvage Auto Fraud Reform Coalition (SAFR)

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March 4, 2009

**TO: Members of the House of Representatives and Senate**

Each year, millions of vehicles are totaled, and thousands of wrecked, flooded, or stolen vehicles are sold without proper disclosure. The current system for tracking totaled vehicles is still not timely, complete, or easily accessible to the public; and a national database is still far from completion. Progress with the National Motor Vehicle Titling Information System (NMVTIS) database for identifying totaled vehicles is a valuable first step, but must be supplemented with more modern technology from the private sector to provide increased transparency for used car buyers.

While the Department of Justice has made significant progress with NMVTIS, full state DMV participation is critical to its success. In addition legislation is necessary to require auto insurers to provide expedited and more complete total loss information. This information is needed so this total loss information can be integrated into vehicle history reports for the commercial wholesale used car market and consumers.

**We, the undersigned, who represent millions of U.S. workers, believe legislation is necessary to require that insurers make additional total-loss data available to the public, thereby “red-flagging” the vehicle forever, and putting consumers on notice of a vehicle’s serious damage history.** The most direct and effective method to provide consumers with more complete vehicle histories is for insurance companies to make the VINs of totaled vehicles available to the public. Consumers could obtain this total-loss information easily and quickly through existing vehicle history providers like Carfax or Experian’s Auto Check.

Bipartisan legislation (H.R. 1257/S. 202), has recently been introduced by Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-Fla.), Rep. Gene Green (D-TX), Sen. John Ensign (R-Nev.), and Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) to close these loopholes. Passage of this legislation would provide used car buyers an important tool for making better decisions about vehicle safety and fair market value. We respectfully urge you to support committee consideration of this important safety and consumer protection legislation early this session.

Sincerely,

National Automobile Dealers Association  
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers  
American Honda Motor Company  
American International Automobile Dealers  
Association  
Association of International Automobile  
Manufacturers  
Automotive Recyclers Association  
Automotive Service Association  
Experian  
Hyundai Motor America  
Mazda North American Operations

National Automobile Auction Association  
National Association of Minority Automobile  
Dealers  
National Independent Automobile Dealers  
Association  
Toyota Motor America  
Volkswagen of America, Inc.