



Recyclers News Press

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GMARE highlights on page 10....

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Recyclers
News
Press

The RECYCLERS NEWS PRESS is published six times per year for the Iowa Automotive Recyclers. None of the material in this publication necessarily reflects the opinion of IAR, its officers, director, staff members or advertisers. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the author.

IAR Members are encouraged to submit material for publication in the Recyclers News Press. Content may be edited for length with the author's permission.

Deadline for submission is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Send content to Sue Schauls at Sue.Schauls@gmail.com with a full color graphic when possible.

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Iowa Automotive Recyclers Board of Directors Meeting

Friday—March 6, 2026

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Board of Director Members: Mike Swift, Mitzi Waterbury, Joel McCaw, Pat Roof, Jodi Kunde, Jeremy Bevard, Eric Piper, Tom Snyder, Dave Hesmer, Tyler Theune, Jason Ennenga, Andrew Galinsky, Danny Lehmkuhl and Sue Schauls.

The annual Board of Directors and Member meeting was held on Friday, March 6, 2026, in LaVista, NE prior to the start of the GMARE event. Mike Swift, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and offered the anti-trust statement. He thanked everyone for attending and the support he received in his tenure as President of the association.

Joel McCaw, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report and a discussion ensued concerning improving non-dues revenue and the status of the investment account as doing well.

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Iowa Automotive Recyclers Board of Directors Meeting Friday—March 6, 2026

The legislative discussion centered on the Towing bill (see summary on page 8). Our EV education bill lost its momentum due to the DOT voicing budget concerns for tracking training certificates.

Mike proposed that we re-instate working committees to tackle some projects via smaller groups of volunteers. The committees will include: Education; Legislative; GMARE; Membership; and Social Media.

The meeting concluded with the re-election of the Board of Directors. The new Board of Directors and Officers were installed using the traditional script. The new officers are Mitzi Waterbury, President, Jeremy Bevard, Vice President, Joel McCaw, Treasurer, Pat Roof, Secretary, Jodi Kunde, Special Funds Manager and Mike Swift, Immediate Past President. The association welcomed Jerod Ballhagen, Waterloo Auto Parts, as a new Director.

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*Respectfully
Submitted,
Pat Roof,
IAR Secretary*

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Iowa Automotive Recyclers Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 – 5:15 pm **Teleconference**

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Board of Director Members: Mike Swift, Mitzi Waterbury, Joel McCaw, Pat Roof, Jodi Kunde, Tom Snyder, Dave Hesmer, Tyler Theune, Andrew Galinsky, and Sue Schauls.

Legislative Discussion

Towing bills (Senate Study Bill 3061 and House Study Bill 559) proposed by Towing Association that changes the timeframe for notifications of abandoned vehicles.

Senate File 492 & House File 357 addresses what we call "affidavit law." The bill adds the requirement of the lienholder check as mandatory. We requested this when we created the law originally, so we will be in favor of these passing. See links:
SF 492 –or HF 357 –

GMARE agenda has been finalized. Brochure mailer will go out soon. Email announcements will be sent from Nebraska frequently. Colorado association will be included in the invitation. See everyone to get their registration and hotel reservation in by Feb 3, 2026.

Legislative – EV Safety Training bill has not been assigned to the Senate Transportation committee yet so still awaiting a Sente File number.

Dismantling Training date (via webinar) Sue will get with Jason to do a dry run and if that goes well will set a training date in the near future for an afternoon session.

Mitzi brought up that her local post office will ship airbags so the legality of that is being researched.

Respectfully
Submitted,
Pat Roof,
IAR Secretary



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Iowa Automotive Recyclers Scholarship

Each year the *Iowa Automotive Recyclers* award scholarships to Direct Members' and their employees' children and grandchildren, to assist with the cost of a college education. Students may apply during any year they attend an accredited institution.

The Scholarship program is supported by the auction proceeds during the annual Summer Outing and/or GAMRE event and by direct donations to the program from those who did not attend the event. Remember you can send an item for auction even if you cannot attend the event! Or you can make a direct donation to the program.

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A Letter from the Scholarship Chairman ...

Since the inception of the IAR Scholarship program, we have given outstanding students from member families funds toward an educational goal. Each year it is our privilege to disperse up to \$5000 in scholarship to these fine young men and women.

Jodi Kunde, Chairman



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News from Jim Obradovich at the Capitol 2026 Legislative Update

Iowa Automotive Recyclers Association

Legislative Session Update

Issue No. 14-26, 4/10/2026



Lawmakers depart the Capitol Wednesday evening. (Photo by The Capitol Group)

Bills of Interest

(HF - House File, HSB - House Study Bill, HR House Resolution, SF - Senate File, SSB - Senate Study Bill, SR - Senate Resolution) (F - For, A - Against, M - Monitoring)

SF 2457 (formerly SSB 3061) [attached to HF 2617] - Abandoned Vehicles (M) - Current law requires an entity that takes custody of an abandoned vehicle to send notice by certified mail to all known claimants of the vehicle no more than 20 days after taking custody of the vehicle. This bill requires such notice to be sent no more than 10 days after taking custody of the vehicle.

Additionally, current state law requires a person to ask for a hearing regarding an abandoned vehicle, or reclaim an abandoned vehicle and personal property left inside such vehicle, within 10 days after notice is mailed. The bill extends the reclamation period to 20 days. If notice is not provided and a private entity or police authority takes custody of the vehicle and sells the vehicle at auction, the bill requires payment to the lienholder from the auction proceeds as much as those proceeds can cover of the remainder owed on the vehicle loan before paying the vehicle owner.

The bill authorizes a person to reclaim personal property from within the vehicle without paying reclamation fees, so long as the property is not attached to the vehicle, only once while the vehicle is in custody of a private entity.

If an abandoned vehicle is not reclaimed, it can be sold at public auction or for junk or scrap if it is determined to not be appropriate for highway use.

News from Jim Obradovich at the Capitol 2026 Legislative Update

Referred to Commerce. Subcommittee: Boussetot, Knox, and Webster. Approved by subcommittee. Approved by committee. Rereferred to Appropriations. Subcommittee: Boussetot, Blake, and Koelker. Approved by subcommittee. Approved by committee. On Senate debate calendar.

SF 2450 (formerly SSB 3104) - Telecommunication Scrap Metal Sales (A) - The bill provides that a person who is a resident of Iowa shall not sell telecommunications copper to a scrap metal dealer in this state unless the person has obtained a permit to sell telecommunications copper from the sheriff of the county in which the person resides. A person who is not a resident of Iowa shall not sell telecommunications copper to a scrap metal dealer in this state unless the person has obtained a permit to sell telecommunications copper from a sheriff located anywhere in the state.

The sheriff shall issue a permit to the person if all of the following apply: the person has not been convicted of a violation of the bill more than two times; the person declares on an application provided by the sheriff that the person is informed of and will comply with the bill; and the person pays a permit fee of not more than \$5.

The bill requires that a sheriff is required to keep a record of all scrap metal permits issued containing, at a minimum, the date of issuance, the name and address of the person or entity, a photocopy of the person's identification or of the entity's employee's identification, and a photograph of the person or of the entity's employee.

Referred to Commerce. Subcommittee: Reichman, Drey, and Zumbach. Approved by subcommittee. Approved by committee. Referred to Ways and Means. Subcommittee: Reichman, Boussetot, and Townsend. Approved by subcommittee 2-1.

HF 2617 (formerly HSB 667) [attached to SF 2457] - Abandoned Vehicles / Towing (M) - This bill rewrites and reorganizes current law regulating the towing, impounding, reclaiming, and selling of abandoned vehicles, and providing required notice.

The bill states that within ten days after towing an abandoned vehicle, the person who impounded the vehicle shall give notice to the registered owner of the vehicle and, if applicable, any lienholder and known claimants of the vehicle, with the notice including a description of the year, make, model, vehicle identification number of the vehicle and the location of the vehicle.

The bill also requires the notice must include a statement that the person has twenty days to reclaim the vehicle or personal property from inside the vehicle, and that the twenty-day reclamation period began on the date the notice was given.

The process for reclaiming a vehicle is spelled out in detail in the bill as well as the process for the sale of abandoned vehicles for junk or scrap.

Referred to Transportation. Subcommittee: Jones, Bossman and Gosa. Approved by subcommittee. Approved by committee. On House debate calendar. Approved by the House 84-13.

Approved by the House and Senate:

SF 492 - Lien Checks (M) - This bill prohibits a licensed vehicle recycler from acquiring a vehicle unless the recycler verifies, by using the DOT's online lien verification system, that there is not a lienholder who has a security interest in the vehicle.

Approved by the Senate 49-0. Referred to House Transportation. Subcommittee: Bossman, Bagniewski and Henderson. Approved by subcommittee. Approved by committee. On House debate calendar. Approved by the House 92-0.

Greater Midwest Auto Recyclers Expo GMARE Highlights March 6-7, 2026

GMARE 2026 was held March 6–7 at the Embassy Suites Omaha–La Vista Hotel & Conference Center in La Vista, Nebraska.

This year marked a special milestone as the Automotive Recyclers of Nebraska (ARIN) and the Iowa Auto Recyclers (IAR) partnered to host the event, bringing recyclers and industry partners from both states together for education, networking, and collaboration.

Friday featured a tradeshow with exhibitors, lunch, and a full afternoon of educational sessions. Jeremy Heidemann of Forbin delivered the keynote presentation on cybersecurity and how businesses can better protect themselves from online threats.

Additional sessions covered the importance of part quality, strategies for maximizing the use of yard management systems, practical eBay selling tips, and safe handling practices for electric and hybrid vehicles. These presentations provided attendees with practical tools and insights they could apply directly to their operations.

Friday evening concluded with the annual banquet and auction. The event once again brought attendees together for a fun evening of networking and camaraderie while raising funds to support scholarships for students entering the automotive recycling industry.

Saturday included a Sales School led by Jer Banta, focusing on sales strategies, customer retention, and business growth.

The event wrapped up with a yard tour and lunch

at Kosiski’s Auto Parts in Omaha, giving attendees the opportunity to see operations firsthand and continue conversations with fellow recyclers.

GMARE 2026 once again provided valuable learning opportunities and strengthened connections within the automotive recycling industry.

Celebrating Our Exhibitor Award Winners

The GMARE trade show is a highlight of the event each year, our exhibitors play a huge role in its success. Congratulations to this year’s award winners!

Iowa Auto Recyclers Board of Directors 2026-2028



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Greater Midwest Auto Recyclers Expo GMARE Highlights March 6-7, 2026



Best Sales Person– VinMatchPro



Most Creative Theme– Nordstrom's



Best Overall Display– We Buy Key Fobs

Thank you! Exhibitors, Sponsors and Speakers!

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2026 Exhibitors



OEM Using Recycled Parts

Jeep maker Stellantis is increasing its vehicle recycling capabilities with a third dismantling center. The multinational automaker, with a North American headquarters in Detroit, didn't name the location of the new facility. It already has vehicle processing centers in Turin, Italy, which it opened in 2024, and in São Paulo, Brazil, which started operating in August. Many automakers have been forging programs to recycle vehicles to reuse their parts, including Stellantis and Toyota. Stellantis is using its facilities to recover functional parts to be reused and to recycle those that can't. *Source: [F&I Showroom Magazine](#)*

Is an OEM using recycled parts good or bad for the auto recycling industry?

An OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) utilizing or endorsing recycled parts is generally **good** for the auto recycling industry, as it validates the market, encourages a circular economy, and promotes environmental sustainability. However, it can create tension if OEMs try to control the supply chain or issue restrictive policies that limit the use of independently sourced recycled parts.

Key Impacts on the Auto Recycling Industry:

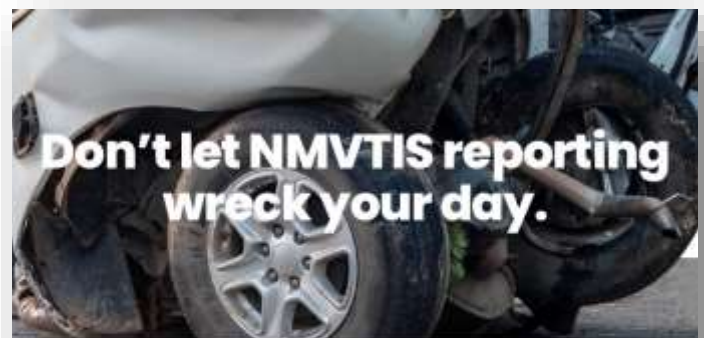
Validation and Demand: When OEMs accept recycled parts, it boosts consumer confidence in the quality of these components, which are often sold by recyclers to repair shops.

Sustainability and Circular Economy: Using recycled OEM parts reduces waste, conserves resources, and lowers the carbon footprint compared to producing new parts.

Economic Opportunities: Recycled OEM parts offer high-quality alternatives that are often 30–80% cheaper than new parts, allowing recyclers to meet high customer demand for cost-effective repairs.

Conflict Over Control: A significant challenge is that some manufacturers issue position statements that restrict or discourage the use of salvaged parts, which conflicts with the interests of independent auto recyclers, say the [Automotive Recyclers Association](#).

Ultimately, for the auto recycling industry, the ideal scenario is collaborative, where OEMs embrace the reuse of parts rather than restricting it to protect new part sales, notes [Auto Recycling World](#). The industry is generally shifting towards a more integrated, circular model, but challenges include variability in parts availability, quality, and order accuracy.



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NMVTIS Reporting is Required

Auto recyclers are federally required to report to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) to prevent stolen vehicles from being re-sold and to stop the illegal "washing" of titles from junked cars.

This reporting enhances consumer safety by ensuring total loss vehicles are accurately branded and not sold as safe vehicles.



Check your reporting status at <https://new.nmvtis-le.org/NMVTISReportingStatus>

Key Reasons for Reporting to NMVTIS:

Legal Compliance: The Anti-Car Theft Act requires businesses handling five or more salvage, junk, or total-loss vehicles per year to report monthly.

Preventing Fraud: It stops VIN cloning and prevents stolen vehicles from entering the market.

Safety & Transparency: Ensures consumers know if a car was previously destroyed, flooded, or salvaged, protecting them from unsafe vehicles.

Compliance Verification: Using approved providers to report (as detailed on VehicleHistory.gov) ensures compliance with regulations that, if ignored, can lead to severe penalties.

Auto recyclers can report their data through approved data consolidators.

In some cases, reporting via inventory management system upload have failed to reach the database and has not been reported as failed reporting attempts. **So, it is imperative that each auto recycling facility check their status periodically.**



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John Deere Settles Right-to-Repair Lawsuit

John Deere has agreed to a \$99 million settlement to resolve a 2022 class-action lawsuit alleging they illegally monopolized repair services for their machinery, restricting farmers from fixing their own equipment. As part of the settlement, Deere will provide diagnostic tools and software to farmers for at least 10 years.

Key Details of the Settlement

- **Settlement Amount:** \$99 million will be placed into a fund for farmers and independent repair shops that paid for authorized dealership repairs since January 10, 2018.
 - **Repair Access:** Deere agreed to make diagnostic tools, software, and manuals accessible to owners for at least 10 years, allowing for repairs on large agricultural equipment like tractors and combines.
 - **No Wrongdoing Admitted:** The settlement, which requires final court approval, does not include an admission of guilt by John Deere.
- Scope:** The agreement covers repairs made on large agricultural equipment, including tractors, combines, and sprayers

Read an Article from [CAR & DRIVER](#)

Background and Ongoing Issues

- **Monopolization Allegations:** The lawsuit claimed that John Deere, by limiting access to tools and diagnostic software, forced farmers to use authorized dealerships, which increased costs and caused delays, particularly during critical farming times.
- **Independent Viewpoint:** Some independent repair technicians expressed skepticism that the settlement will immediately change the difficulty of repairing modern, software-heavy equipment, saying that farmers may still be heavily reliant on dealerships.
- **Separate FTC Suit:** While this class-action suit is settled, John Deere still faces a separate 2025 lawsuit from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) regarding similar repair restrictions, according to reports from.
- **Previous Commitments:** This agreement builds upon a 2023 Memorandum of Understanding between Deere and the American Farm Bureau, making those previous voluntary commitments legally binding.

For more in-depth coverage of the ongoing legal challenges and their impact, read [Farm Equipment's coverage of the Right-to-Repair impact](#).



Why Right-to-Repair Matters

The automotive right to repair issue centers on vehicle owners' and independent shops' access to diagnostic data, tools, and software, which manufacturers often restrict, forcing reliance on authorized dealerships. Proponents, including the CAR Coalition, push for legislation like the [REPAIR Act](#) to ensure competitive, affordable repair options, while manufacturers argue these restrictions are necessary for vehicle security and cybersecurity.

It matters to auto recyclers because these restrictions hinder the ability to safely remove, test, and resell functional electronic parts—like ECUs, transmissions, and advanced cameras—essentially rendering valuable, recycled components unusable, according to MEME, the Vehicle Suppliers Association.

Key Aspects of the Issue:

- **Data Access Barriers:** As vehicles become more computerized, manufacturers use proprietary software and telematics data, restricting independent shops from performing complex repairs.
- **Consumer Choice & Costs:** Independent shops are often, on average, 36% less expensive than dealers. Limiting access to these shops increases costs for consumers.
- **The REPAIR Act (H.R. 1566/S. 1379):** The Right to Equitable and Professional Auto Industry Repair Act seeks to ensure independent shops can access the same repair information and tools as dealers.

Industry Opposition: Organizations like [NADA](#) argue that the legislation is unnecessary because repair information is already available through voluntary agreements, arguing that proposed laws create security risks and excessive paperwork.

Voluntary Commitments: Major automakers committed in 2023 to providing independent repairers access to necessary diagnostic tools for all powertrains, including EVs, as highlighted by the [Alliance For Automotive Innovation](#).

Legislative Developments: Beyond federal efforts, states like Massachusetts and Maine have passed legislation, with [Auto Care Association](#) supporting, aiming to lock in access rights to repair data.

Main Arguments:

Pro-Repair: Consumers own the vehicle and have the right to choose their repairer, which is necessary for fair market competition and lower costs.

Anti-Repair: Direct access to vehicle data by third parties can compromise user privacy, cybersecurity, and vehicle safety.

Why it Matters to Auto Recyclers

Part Functionality: Many used parts (e.g., ADAS sensors, modules) require VIN programming to work in another vehicle. Without access to tools, recyclers cannot unlock or program these parts, reducing their value.

Sustainability and Value: Limiting repairs forces consumers to buy new, bypassing affordable, sustainable used parts, which decreases revenue for recyclers.

Market Competition: Fair access ensures that consumers can choose to use affordable, recycled parts for repairs rather than being forced to use expensive OEM parts.

The Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA) is actively engaging in right-to-repair debates, focusing on protecting the use of recycled, original equipment (OEM) parts in vehicle repairs. As of early 2024, the ARA has monitored numerous state and federal legislative actions to ensure that regulations support, rather than hinder, the independent automotive recycling industry.



Join Iowa Automotive Recyclers Today!

Iowa Automotive Recyclers Membership Application



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Contact Person & Title: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Email: _____

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Telephone: _____

Direct Membership Dues \$400 Iowa auto recycling facilities
(Iowa business which dismantles and sell used automotive parts)

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to the auto recycling industry.

Enclosed is my IAR annual membership check:

Signature _____

Date: _____, 20____

Membership is subject to approval by the IAR Board.

Please return form and the membership dues to:

Iowa Automotive Recyclers –204 Alta Vista Ave Avenue – Waterloo, Iowa 50703

Contact Executive Director Sue Schauls at Sue.Schauls@gmail.com
or Phone 319-290-7843

Associate Members

Accurate Converter
Joliet, IL
www.AccurateConverter.com

Aljon by C&C Manufacturing
Ottumwa, IA
www.candcmfg.net

Alter Metal Recycling
Des Moines, IA
www.altertrading.com

Auto Data Direct, Inc.
Tallahassee, FL
www.add123.com

Bank Iowa Insurance LLC
Waterloo, IA
www.bankiowainsurance.com

Buckingham Auto Crushing
Leon, IA

Car-Part.com
Ft Wright, KY
www.car-part.com

Casualty Adjuster's Guide
of Iowa/Nebraska
Waseca, MN
www.cagworld.com

Hollander
Plymouth, MN
www.HollanderParts.com

Hotlines, Inc.
Council Bluffs, IA
www.partshotlines.com

IIADA
West Branch, IA
www.iowaiada.com

Iowa Metal Recycling
Evansdale, IA
www.iowametalrecycling.com

Legend Smelting & Recycling
Joliet, IL
www.LegendSmelting.com

LKQ Corporation
Chicago, IL
www.LKQCorp.com

LMC Insurance
Des Moines, IA
www.lmcins.com

Nordstrom's Automotive
Garretson, SD
www.nordstromsauto.com

S & L Auto Parts, Inc.
Newton, IA

Sheetz Towing
Evansdale, IA

Shine Bros. Corp.
Spencer, IA
www.shinebros.com

Sioux City Compressed Steel
Sioux City, IA
www.CompressedSteel.com

United Catalyst Corp
Greenville, SC
UnitedCatalystCorporation.com



319-233-5238

212 N Evans Rd., Evansdale, IA 50707
IowaMetalRecycling.com

Industry Update

From the Automotive Recyclers Association

Advocacy That Drives the Industry Forward— Protecting Your Right to Recycle – And the Future of the Industry— Annual Hill Days

Why Advocacy Matters—Voice of Professional Auto Recyclers

In an industry shaped by fast-moving regulation, environmental policy, and shifting OEM control, advocacy isn't optional — it's essential. ARA exists to ensure that professional automotive recyclers have a strong, informed voice where decisions are made.

Whether it's fighting for fair access to salvage vehicles, defending the right to repair, or establishing responsible policy around EV batteries, ARA is working every day to protect your ability to operate, grow, and serve your community.

ARA advocates at every level to protect access, promote environmental responsibility, and ensure a fair playing field for licensed recyclers. With decades of leadership, we turn industry challenges into real policy wins that move the entire sector forward.

Annual Hill Days

Hill Days is our annual advocacy event that brings industry leaders together in Washington, D.C. for education, engagement, and direct dialogue with lawmakers. Over the course of three days, participants will gain the tools and confidence needed to effectively advocate key legislative priorities while building meaningful connections with peers and association leadership.

Hill Days 2026 will take place in Washington, D.C., with attendees staying at Yours Truly DC, conveniently located near Capitol Hill and key federal offices. Its central location makes it an ideal headquarters for our meetings and advocacy efforts. A special discounted room rate of \$299 per night has been secured for Hill Days participants. We encourage early reservations, as availability within the room block is limited. <https://www.a-r-a.org/calendar-2/hill-days/>



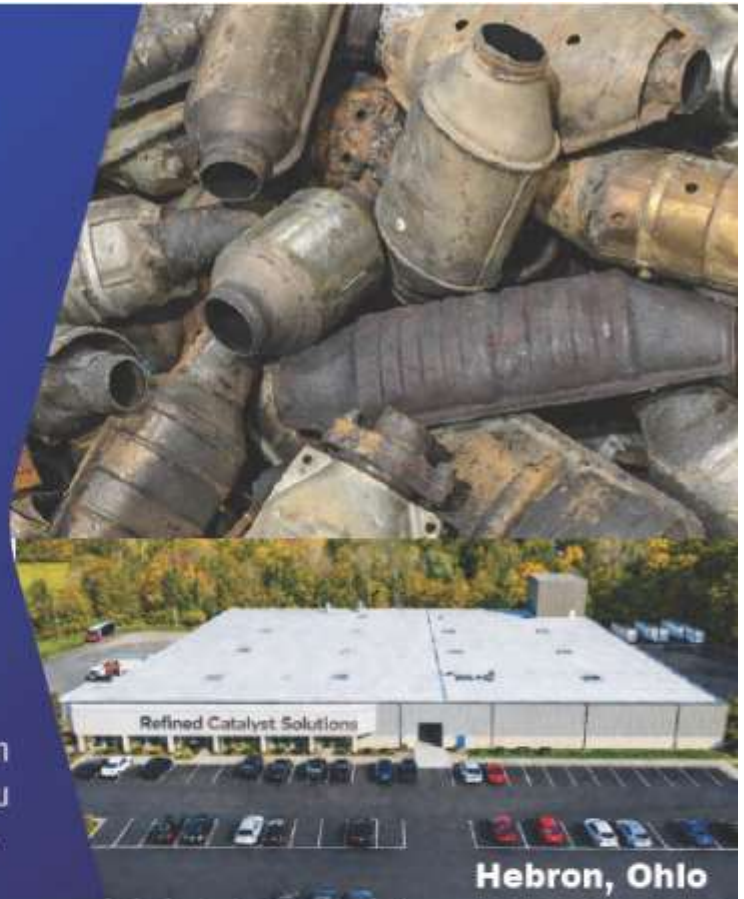


REFINED
CATALYST SOLUTIONS

Maximize Your Revenues with a Trusted Partner

Grow Your Business With Integrated Recycling Solutions

Stop leaving margins to chance. Through our precision technology and data-driven processing, we help you secure the full market value of every ounce of your PGMs.



Hebron, Ohio

Refined Catalyst Solutions was founded on the belief that long-term relationships are more important than monthly reports.

We are more than just a catalytic converter recycler; we are a **strategic partner dedicated to your growth and profitability**. By combining **transparent laboratory testing** with decades of deep **market expertise**, we deliver customized programs that scale alongside your business. At Refined Catalyst Solutions, we don't just process material - we engineer the **long-term financial growth** for your operation.

BUSINESS SUPPORT



Technology

Data-driven tools, daily pricing, inventory tracking, and integrated hedging capabilities.



Direct Collection Network

13 locations across North America: 9 in the U.S. and 4 in Canada through LaRush Business Solutions.



Tailored Solutions

Transact based on your business needs: sell on recovery, by the piece, or securely pool your PGMs.

Contact

- www.refinedcatalyst.com
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- Jordan Clark, Iowa Location Manager: (515) 903-1003
- HQ: (740) 899-2043
- HQ: 1120 O'Neill Dr. Hebron, OH 43025

Why Choose Us

- Full Transparency
- Increased Revenues
- Fast and Reliable Payments

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