

**Statement of the
Mid-America Tire Dealers Association**

**Submitted by
Justin Glasgow, Performance Tire and
Wheel**

**Before the
House Energy and Environment
Committee**

February 8, 2016

Chairman Hedke, Members of the Committee;

My name is Justin Glasgow, Owner of Performance Tire and Wheel, Board member and Past President of the Mid-America Tire Dealers Association (MATDA). On behalf of our members, we appreciate the opportunity to be here today to state our position on HB 2517.

The Mid-America Tire Dealers Association opposes House Bill 2517. Our members would like to commend the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE) efforts over all these years to promote the reuse, recycling, and proper management of tires. We (MATDA) were here in 1990 when tires had been dumped in ditches, roadsides, and pastures all over the country illegally disposed of, and which are known to cause vermin, and mosquito problems, as well as fire hazards, for residents. Laws nationwide promoted ways of not only properly managing waste, but also promoting reuse and recycling. Other states looked at the Kansas program as a model law that helped create a market for one of the top 10 tire processors in the country to emerge. If you are not aware, the benches in the halls of the capitol were donated and are made of recycled tires.

We question the motives for abruptly ending such a successful program. Each year the requests for grants far exceed the available funds generated; indicating a high degree of interest. With that said, there is approximately \$400,000 awarded to schools and local units of government to reimburse the use of recycled tires each year. (2015 = \$403,621 awarded. 2015 \$765,353 requested. 2014 \$513,452 awarded and 2014 = \$1,136,845 requested).

We clearly have concerns about collecting the excise tax in 2015 (which is no doubt over \$800,000 by now) and not awarding any grants, despite a law still in effect. We question why the KDHE would report that the program has ended to trade press before legislation had even been introduced! (Scrap Tire News January 2016)

Taking away a program that is user generated, and self funded that shares dollars with schools and government in budget crisis like today, is a mistake. Especially given the industry is supportive and the consumer offers no push back for 25¢ on more than a \$100 tire purchase.

Tire dealers support any processes that are environmentally and economically sound. There is a market for recycled rubber products and the tire industry relishes the good press. It is common to have customers who are aware that their school or local park has put in playground mulch or picnic tables partially funded by a grant.

For the costs, the green aspect and the benefits of the products supported by the program are worth the investment. We feel there should be Legislative direction to KDHE to conduct and award the 2015 grant round immediately.

MATDA would offer amendments that we feel would improve the probability of achieving the original intent of this bill, should the bill be worked.

Leave the advisory board on page 2 line 27 - 28. Leave the 25¢ excise tax on page 4 line 13.

Leave the contractors for education and grant language in tact on page 6 line 9 – 34.

Also on page 6, line 17 - 18, allow grants to be available to state agencies in addition local government and schools. We would also recommend lowering 50% to 25% (line 18). It is believed that more communities would be able to take advantage of the help if the overall percentage was lowered. There are always more applicants than funds available.

On behalf of our membership, thank you again for allowing me to express our concerns.