

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Colorado Automobile Dealers Assn. Commits \$1 Million to Clear the Air Foundation**

*Nonprofit also Marks Donation of 500<sup>th</sup> High-emitter to be Recycled to Reduce Pollution*

DENVER – Colorado’s new car and truck dealers today accelerated their commitment to the Clear the Air Foundation, pledging \$1 million to help the nonprofit they founded provide scholarships for aspiring auto technicians and others entering automotive fields

The donation was announced by Colorado Automobile Dealers Association Chair Don Hicks at the group’s regional meeting at the History Colorado Center. Attendees also heard that the Clear the Air Foundation this week passed an important milestone – receiving its 500<sup>th</sup> donation of a high-emitting vehicle.

The foundation has a dual purpose: to remove old, high-polluting vehicles from the road and to fund auto industry scholarships here in Colorado.

The aging vehicles are sold to Colorado auto recyclers who dismantle and shred them, with proceeds helping to underwrite scholarships. The \$1 million contribution will create an endowment that will provide a significant boost to those scholarships.

“As we all know, Colorado’s economic success is dependent on a trained workforce,” Hicks said. “The \$1 million cash infusion to the Clear the Air Foundation will allow us to offer a significantly higher number of scholarships much sooner than we otherwise could. It will create an endowment and we can spend the annual earnings from that to support scholarships without dipping into the principal. In other words, it will be a gift that keeps on giving.”

The vast majority of the aging vehicles, which disproportionately contribute to the region’s air quality problems, are donated to the foundation by Colorado auto dealers who received them as trade-ins.

“When we remove an old, high-emitting vehicle from the road, we help cut the pollution that dirties the air we breathe and clouds our mountain views,” said Lee Payne, chair of the Clear the Air Foundation.

Colorado residents also can participate in taking these cars off the road by donating their aging vehicles. They can learn more by visiting [ClearTheAirFoundation.org](http://ClearTheAirFoundation.org) or calling 303-880-5139.

The Clear the Air Foundation received its official designation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2010 and became operational last year. Taxpayers who donate vehicles to the Clear the Air Foundation can receive the same tax benefits they would receive from any other car donation program, yet this is the only one to guarantee the car is recycled and will never pollute again.

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