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# Recycling/Resource Recovery: Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Addressing Recyclers Right to Reuse Products Policy

## Arkansas Environmental, Energy, and Water Law Blog

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The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries ("ISRI") issued a January 29<sup>th</sup> news release noting its Board of Directors recent adoption of a policy "in support of recyclers' ability to reuse products, and the benefits of reusing."

ISRI is a trade association headquartered in Washington D.C.

ISRI states it represents more than 1,600 companies and 21 chapters nationwide that process, broker and industrially consume scrap commodities, including metals, paper, plastics, glass, rubber, electronics and textiles.

The news release quotes ISRI President Robin Wiener as stating:

More and more traditional recycling companies are diversifying their business models to include reuse ... It is essential that they have the legal protections in place that allows the lawful repair and return of these products to the marketplace. This policy allows ISRI to advocate for such protections.

The news release quotes the policy as stating:

ISRI members across the commodity spectrum rely on reusing goods and products, including electronics equipment, automotive parts and tires, as part of their business models. Reuse provides an excellent environmental and economic benefit. Despite these benefits, product manufacturers limit the ability of recyclers to legitimately reuse products; for example, by limiting parts and parts information, manuals, and utilizing digital locks that impede a product's reuse. These practices inhibit every recyclers' right to return products and goods back into the marketplace for legitimate reuse. Consumers should have access to cost-effective alternatives to new products and replacement parts. As global resources become more constrained, the right to reuse should be fully supported.

Further, the news release notes that ISRI supports policy that recognizes:

- Used products destined for reuse are not waste;
- Provided that the recycler is not prohibited by individual contracts, recyclers have the right to reuse and remarket products they lawfully own or are remarketing as agents of owners (consignment inventory);
- Recyclers should be able to bypass technological protection measures (digital locks) that prevent reuse; and

- Recyclers should have convenient and affordable access to, but not limited to, repair manuals, parts and parts information, schematics, diagnostic software, the tools that are necessary for safe and responsible repair and the information to safely handle and reuse certain products, such as airbags.