

Thursday August 13, 2009

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OPINION

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GM pulls funding for mercury switch recycling program

Aug. 13 -- The largest financial contributor to a national mercury switch recycling program for junked vehicles is pulling funding for the program, according to a group of automotive recyclers.

General Motors, along with other auto makers, has been helping pay for removal of the switches through a nationwide program since 2005.

But the portion of GM that emerged from bankruptcy court reorganization no longer wants to contribute funding, according to the Automotive Recyclers Association.

That "new" GM said it does not make vehicles with mercury switches and "therefore is not responsible for the older vehicles made by the prior GM. The old company, still under bankruptcy court supervision, said it is reviewing agreement involving the former company," the association said.

"This further highlights the need to find a stable funding source for the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program, if the mercury from these convenient light switches is to be kept out of the environment," said ARA Executive Vice President Michael Wilson.

Contact Waste & Recycling News senior reporter Jim Johnson at 937-964-1289 or jjohnson@crain.com

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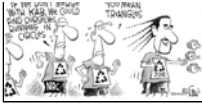
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