



## Industry Headlines

**[CARB Launches \\$20 Million Hybrid Truck Funding Assistance Program](#)**  
 The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has launched a \$20 million funding assistance program designed to spur the purchase of hybrid trucks and buses to help reduce smog-forming pollution and address climate change. Funding incentives range from \$10,000-\$45,000, and each vehicle purchaser, regardless of the size of their fleet, is limited to a maximum of 100 vouchers.  
*Source: [CCJ Magazine](#)*

**[Economic Indicators Provide Positive Signs of Recovery](#)**  
 Changes in a few economic indicators, such as the gross domestic product and consumer confidence, point to better days ahead for the U.S. economy and for the trucking industry.  
*Source: [truckinginfo.com](#)*

**[Dana to Consolidate Michigan, North Carolina Heavy Vehicle Operations](#)**  
 Dana Corp. announced today that it plans to consolidate its Heavy Vehicle Products operations in Kalamazoo, MI and Statesville, NC, into two locations in the Toledo, OH, area and a yet-to-be-determined location in Greater Detroit.  
*Source: [CCJ Magazine](#)*

**[DOT Sets Texting Ban for Commercial Trucks, Buses](#)**  
 The Department of Transportation (DOT) is banning texting-while-driving by commercial truck and bus drivers. The step to curb distracted driving is an interpretation of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's standing regulations. Drivers cited for texting will be subject to civil or criminal penalties of up to \$2,750.  
*Source: [Transport Topics](#)*

**[December Truck Tonnage Jumps 6.6%](#)**

**[Durable Goods Orders Rise in December](#)**

**[Business Inventories Rise 0.4%](#)**

## Submit your Nominee for TRALA's Driver of the Year Program

For over 24 years, TRALA has recognized men and women who achieve the highest level of excellence in professional truck driving and demonstrate our industry's continuing commitment to highway safety and security.

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company sponsors the Driver of the Year Award that will be presented during TRALA's 2010 Annual Meeting at the Doral Golf Resort and Spa in Miami, **April 6-8**.

To complete the application, simply [click here](#). Please note that the file takes a minute to download because it is interactive. Return the nomination to TRALA by hitting the submit button at the top of the document. You can also print the form and fax to (703)299-9115 or send by mail to TRALA, 675 North Washington Street, Suite 410, Alexandria, VA 22314. The nomination deadline is **March 5!**

## Legislative Update

**[TRALA Continues Successful Defense of Graves Amendment in Courts Across U.S.](#)**  
 TRALA's successful defense of the Graves Amendment in all levels of U.S. Courts of law has continued. On January 14, 2010, the State of Minnesota Supreme Court issued a ruling which rejected an argument that state laws capping vicarious liability are preserved by the Graves Amendment's "savings clause." The decision in ***Meyer v. Enterprise Rent A Car*** upholds an earlier ruling of the Minnesota Court of Appeals. The ruling from the State of Minnesota Supreme Court is in agreement with the amicus brief that TRALA filed with the court that supported the authority of the Graves Amendment.

**[TRALA Working to Reduce Excessive Odometer Registration Fees](#)**  
 TRALA's recent discussions with Robert Atkins, Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures for the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures for the County of San Diego, California may have moved TRALA members and the County closer to an agreement regarding payment of an annual odometer registration fee for rental trucks. TRALA staff and representatives from TRALA members Enterprise, U-Haul, and Penske held a conference call with Commissioner Atkins and Jim Byers, Deputy AG Commissioner/Sealer for the County of San Diego on Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

**[TRALA Developing Identification Guide for Customs and Border Patrol](#)**  
 TRALA is in the beginning stages of working with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on ways to reduce instances of mis-identification of companies during security breaches at CBP checkpoints. In many instances when a security breach occurs, border protection personnel often incorrectly identify companies based on their vehicle markings. This situation is believed to be unique to the vehicle renting and leasing industry, and TRALA has met with CBP officials to discuss these concerns. CBP has invited TRALA to develop a brief commercial vehicle identification guide that can be used to educate enforcement personnel on ways to properly identify the company operating a rented or leased commercial vehicle.

**[TRALA Legal Action Fund Campaign](#)**  
 TRALA would like to recognize those who have contributed to the 2009/2010 Legal Action Fund. Legal Action Fund contributions allow TRALA to continue to uphold the highest standards our industry has come to expect from us. Please help support TRALA's legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts and join your colleagues listed below in making a contribution to TRALA's 2009/2010 Legal Action Fund campaign today.

We are still well short of our goal of \$40,000 we think will be needed in the coming year. Please make a contribution today to this year's campaign by visiting our website at [www.trala.org](#). Thanks again to those who have contributed your valuable resources during this continued recession – you have made a valuable investment in TRALA's advocacy program!

Advantage NationalLease, Archer Idealease, Bentley Truck Services, Brown NationalLease, Calmont NationalLease, Carco Idealease, Catawba Rental Company, Debauche Idealease, DeCarolus Truck Rental, Dodge City International, Enterprise Commercial Trucks, Fox & James NationalLease, Fox Idealease, Harco National Insurance, Hill Idealease, Hogan Motor Leasing, Hub Truck Rental, Idealease of Atlanta, Idealease of Northeast Wisconsin, Idealease of Richmond, Interstate Truckway, Kenworth Ontario PacLease, Koch NationalLease, Mack Lease of Omaha, MHC Truck Leasing, Miller Truck Leasing, Morrill, Hock, Hamroff & Horowitz LLP, Navistar, PACCAR Leasing Company, Palmer Leasing Group, Public Service Truck Leasing, Rush Enterprises, Ryder System, Inc., SANTEX International, Scully Transportation Services, Stepco Leasing LTD, Sun State International Trucks, LLC, Supreme Corporation, Truck Sales Leasing U-Haul International, Inc., UHL Idealease, White's Idealease, Wieland Idealease, Worldwide Equipment Leasing

**[Join Us for TRALA's 2010 Annual Meeting](#)**  
 Register today for TRALA's April 2010 Annual Meeting and take advantage of the advanced registration rates and an opportunity to attend the best meeting in the industry. We have made some significant modifications to the meeting program which not only take into account the feedback we have received from members last year, but also recognizes the current economic climate. We believe the new schedule will provide for a more productive and educational meeting filled with valuable business content. To find more information on TRALA's 2010 Annual Meeting and to view a preliminary schedule of events, please visit [TRALA's website](#).

Take just a few minutes to register now for [TRALA's 2010 Annual Meeting](#). Your immediate action will save you \$ while helping TRALA in its planning for an excellent meeting. Once you have registered for the meeting, please make sure to contact the Doral Golf Resort & Spa at 800-713-6725 or [click here](#) to book your reservation. Please contact TRALA's Shannon Murray at (703) 299-9120 or [smurray@trala.org](#) or with any questions.