

## AAAS Capitol Days—2016

The 2016 AAAS Capitol Days were a tremendous success! AAAS member delegations for each state included the following participants: Liz Burleson-Barrett (Big Moe's Spring and Alignment), Steve Kampwerth (Auto Electric and Carburetor), Sonny Barrett (Big Moe's Spring and Alignment), Donald Hall (Harrell & Hall), Steve Kean (Rick's Pro Truck), Joe Ward (First Call Trucks Parts), Kierstin Turnock (LKO), Randal Ward (AAAS President), George Ehrhard (AAAS –FL Ops), Hannah Ford (LKO), Paulina Siodlak (LKO), and Denise Webb (AAAS). The members took time out of their busy schedules to make their presence known and have their voices heard in their respective states.

**AAAS made history in Alabama on February 24th, 2016.** "This year marks the first ever Alabama Capitol Day and it could not have been better, Steve Kampwerth explains,

'each of the Senators and Representatives we spoke with now has a familiarity with our industry and businesses. They know if they have questions or need information, our members and our association are trustworthy and valuable resources available to them.'" The Alabama Capitol Day provided the opportunity to discuss the automotive aftermarket industry and AAAS with key leaders and members of the Alabama legislature. It also provided an opportunity to make new connections and strengthen relationships while explaining the aftermarket industry's needs and concerns. During each of this year's Capitol Day events members discussed their support of the Right to Repair Act, the PARTS Act, and the importance of maintaining an open market for automotive aftermarket parts.



**L-R Liz Burleson-Barrett, Representative John Rogers & Sonny Barrett**

The Alabama delegation met with Representatives Joe Faust, Craig Ford, Danny Garrett, Mike Hill, Arnold Mooney, John Rodgers, Roderick Scott and Randy Wood. As well as Senators Slade Blackwell, Dick Brewbaker, Paul Bussman, Rusty Glover, Greg Reed, Shay Shelnett, J.T. Waggoner and Phil Williams. "Capitol Day was an exciting and energizing day, filled with the opportunity to advocate for our industry. I believe every member would find Capitol Day in their state rewarding and time well spent." Liz Burleson-Barrett, Big Moe's Spring and Alignment, Birmingham.



**Representative Danny Garrett (seated), L-R Liz Burleson-Barrett, Donald Hall, Kierstin Turnock, Steve Kampwerth, Sonny Barrett & Randal Ward**



**L-R: Randal Ward, Senator Billy Hudson, Kierstin Turnock & Steve Kean**

In Jackson, Mississippi on January 13th, AAAS members connected with Representatives

Gary Chism, Mac Huddleston, John Moore, Brent Powell, and Alex Monsour. Members

also had the opportunity to meet with Senators Billy Hudson, Eugene Clarke, Willie Simmons, Josh Harkins, and Lt. Governor Tate Reeves. "It is important that we develop and maintain relationships with our legislators, so that they will know how vital our industry is to consumers. These relationships give us more credibility and access should unfavorable legislation emerge and we need them to hear our message," said Steve Kean, CFO of Rick's Pro Truck and board member of AAAS.



**L-R: Paulina Siodlak, Joe Ward, Randal Ward, Senator Jeff Brandes, Kierstin Turnock, & George Ehrhard**

On February 2nd and 3rd, members engaged in meetings in Tallahassee, Florida. "It was so rewarding to go into the legislative and executive meetings and have the association be recognized without having to introduce ourselves and our industry. It is certainly proof that our dedication to Capitol Days throughout