

## **HEARTLAND AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES, INC. HAS PLED GUILTY TO VIOLATING STATE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS**

In an effort to cooperate with the Travis County District Attorney's Office focus on environmental issues relating to the safety and well-being of Austin residents, we have plead guilty to three misdemeanor charges of unauthorized discharge offenses in the Texas Water Code. The offenses relate to a matter involving the disposal of a mixture of oily water in 2006 and 2007. All these incidents occurred prior to our entry into bankruptcy.

Heartland Automotive Services, Inc. is very respectful of our environment and regrets any damage that may have arisen from the ill advised actions of a few of our employees. We offer our apology to the citizens of Travis County and the State of Texas.

In addition to the \$300,000 fine agreed to as part of the settlement, Heartland has invested in remediation efforts and training in its Austin operations to ensure any similar situations do not occur.

Individuals and businesses should be forewarned that there are extreme consequences for violating environmental laws in Texas. The Travis County District Attorney's Office, the Texas Parks & Wildlife and the Texas Environmental Enforcement Task Force are committed to the enforcement of environmental laws. We applaud the Travis County District Attorney's office and the Texas Environmental Task Force for its professionalism and speed in bringing this case to a swift and satisfactory resolution for all involved.

We hope the citizens of Travis County and the State of Texas will accept our apology and we pledge to comply with all environmental laws.

/s/ Mark Rowberry

HEARTLAND AUTOMOTIVE, INC.