

STATE MEETING, APRIL 2, 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY COORDINATOR....

ABATE of North Idaho, Inc. has just experienced *first hand* the legislative process in our Great State. For the ones that called, wrote or e-mailed our legislators regarding S1367, whether you were in support of or against it, *you have participated in true grass roots activism.*

This bill is good legislation, intended to address a problem that may or may not be rectified in the future by other means. The Idaho Transportation Department, the Idaho State Police and several other police associations supported this bill. Twenty-eight Senators and sixty-six House Representatives voted in favor of it. Only two Senators and one House Representative voted against it. *This was the right bill, the right time, with the right sponsors.* If the Governor signs off on it, as I believe he will, *ANI will be given credit for the introduction and passage of S1367.* Other states MRO's will look to Idaho as an example. While several states are still trying, some have failed and some have to wait until their next session to try again for passage of their bills. We will soon know if Idaho will be the 3rd State in the Union to pass legislation such as this. And when it does, *we should be proud we live in Idaho.*

When ICMS came out in opposition to this bill, *I responded in defense of S1367* with e-mails and a message on our website. What I stated were *facts only* and I know controversy exists whether real or perceived regarding this. I have sent a letter explaining my actions to Chuc Coulter of the ICMS and Karen Bolin of the MRF. All and any reference to the MRF and ICMS were removed from the website. My intentions are to preserve integrity of all concerned and not to split up any organization. ANI is an organization that should *wear its own identity* and be willing to take a stance on issues, regardless of what others may think. We need to be a *Leader* in our own right.

As a leader, *I am not afraid of controversy* and I remain steadfast in my convictions of what is right and fair to all concerned. My philosophy has always been...*Either Lead, Follow or Get the Hell of the Way!* Folks, I am not planning anytime soon to be a follower.

Some of you may consider me pushy or too aggressive or even arrogant...well, thank you, I'll take it as a compliment. *I call it determination, conviction and the will to fight the good fight!* If you can't stand the heat then you better stay out of the kitchen...well, I plan to stay in the kitchen.

I have a couple of quotes that I would like to share...

"History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid" - General Dwight D. Eisenhower

and this one is from ***Eleanor Roosevelt***

***Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events.
Small minds discuss people.***

Now let's begin this meeting and discuss *great ideas....*

'TJ'