Legislation, Is it a necessary evil to protect the Onsite Industry?

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State Affiliates Panel

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The views in this presentation are the presenters and are not reflective of NOWRA.

Why can't we do the "right thing" without politics being involved?

We have been forced to play in the big league!!!



#1- We became a permanent solution

"Adequately managed decentralized (onsite) wastewater treatment systems are a cost-effective and long-term option for meeting public health and water quality goals" (EPA)

#2 – New Solution = New Challenges

- Public Perception



Public Perception

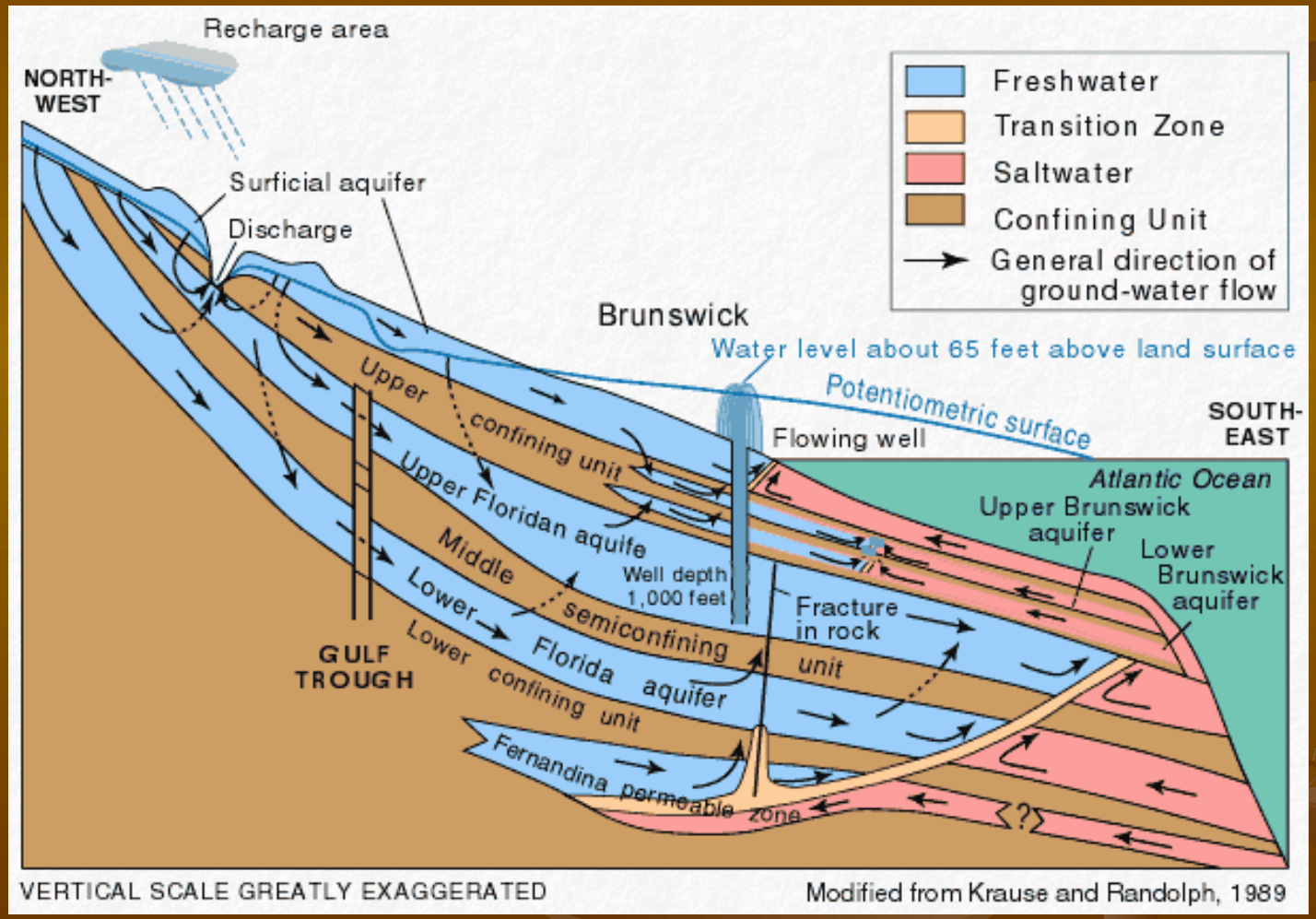


#2 – New Solution = New Challenges

- Public Perception
- Health Concerns



Health Concerns



#2 – New Solution = New Challenges

- Public Perception
- Health Concerns
- Environmental Concerns



Environmental Concerns



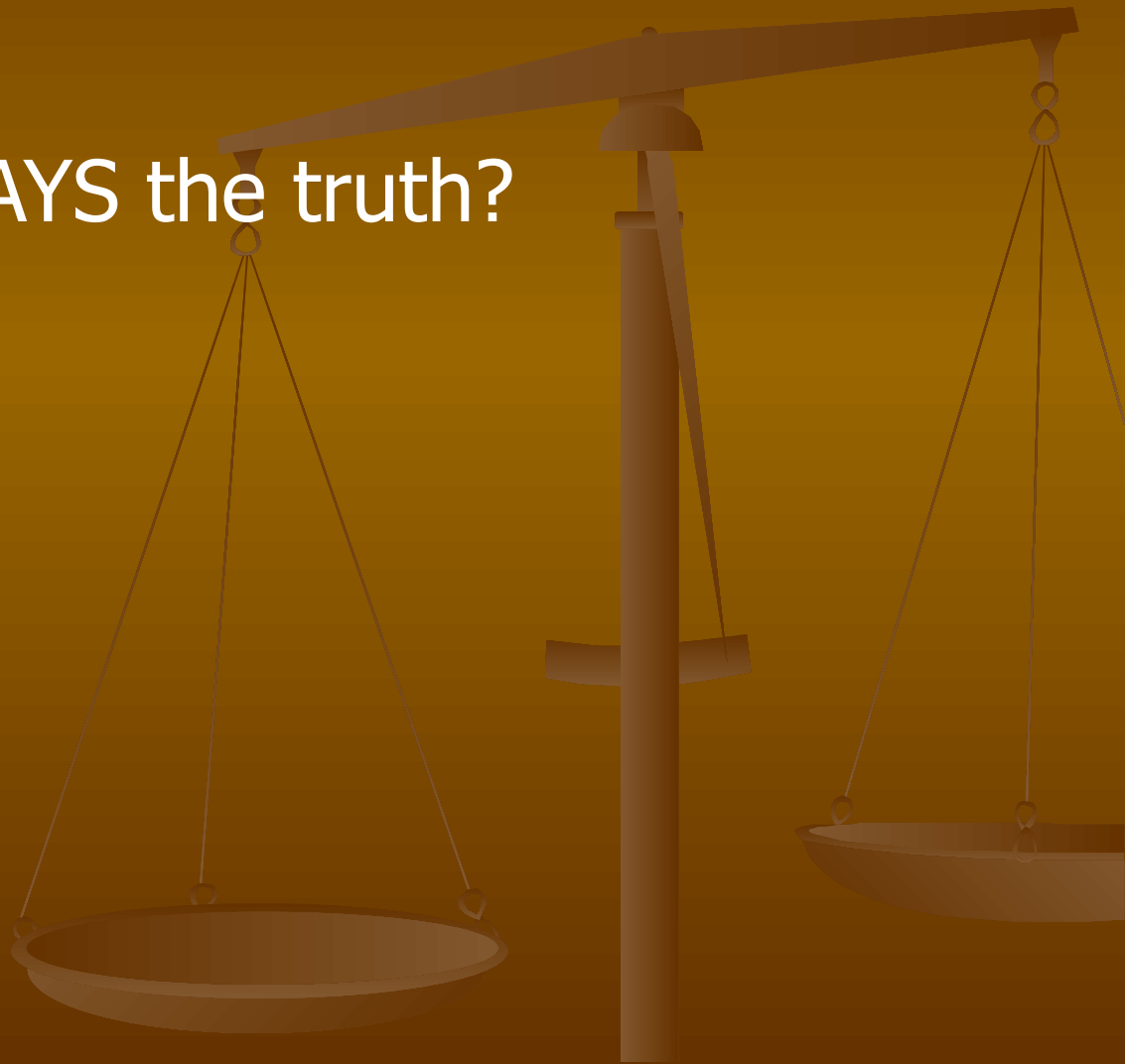
#3 - $$$$$

- Economic Impacts
  - Density
  - Funding
  - Growth Management



Are there water quality issues in your area that Onsite takes the blame?

- Is it ALWAYS the truth?



A little history …



FOWA & Lobbying

- 2006 – Lobbying became a MAJOR focal point for FOWA
  - Legislation was being developed that WOULD impact the Onsite Industry
  - FOWA was the ONLY group advocating FOR the industry.
    - "BIG PIPE" & Environmental Groups - AGAINST

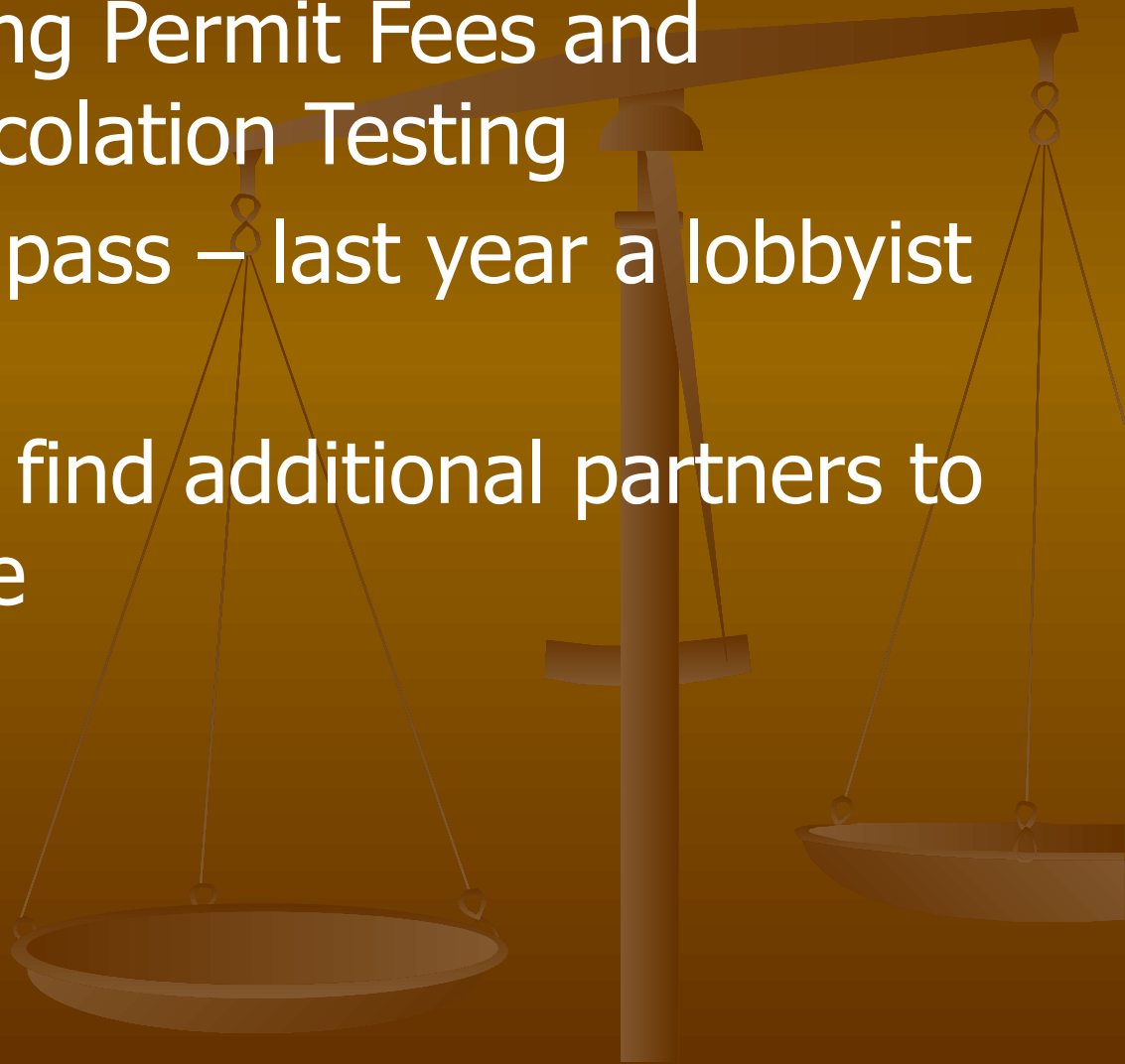


Bills passed in Florida that impacted our industry 2008-2026

- 2008 – HB 5001: Nitrogen Study
- 2010 – SB 550: Springs Protection
- 2012 – HB 1263: Repeal of 550, add 1st Magnitude
- 2013 – HB 269: Bedroom, permits, etc…
- 2013 – HB 375: ATU – HO Training
- 2016 – SB 552: Environmental Resources
- 2020 – SB 712: Environmental Resource Management
- 2022 – SB 856: Private Provider Inspectors
- 2023 – HB 1379: Environmental Protection
- 2024 – HB 1557: Department of Environmental Protection
- 2025 – HB 645: DWTS
- 2026 – SB 290: Department of Agriculture
- 2026 – HB 1285: Biosolids Management
- 2026 – HB 1417: Department of Environmental Protection

Missouri Examples

- SB914 – Updating Permit Fees and phasing out Percolation Testing
- Took 5 years to pass – last year a lobbyist was hired
- Lobbyist helped find additional partners to push the change



So…. who's along for the ride & what's their agenda??



Environmentalists



Homebuilders/Realtors/Land Developers



Tourism



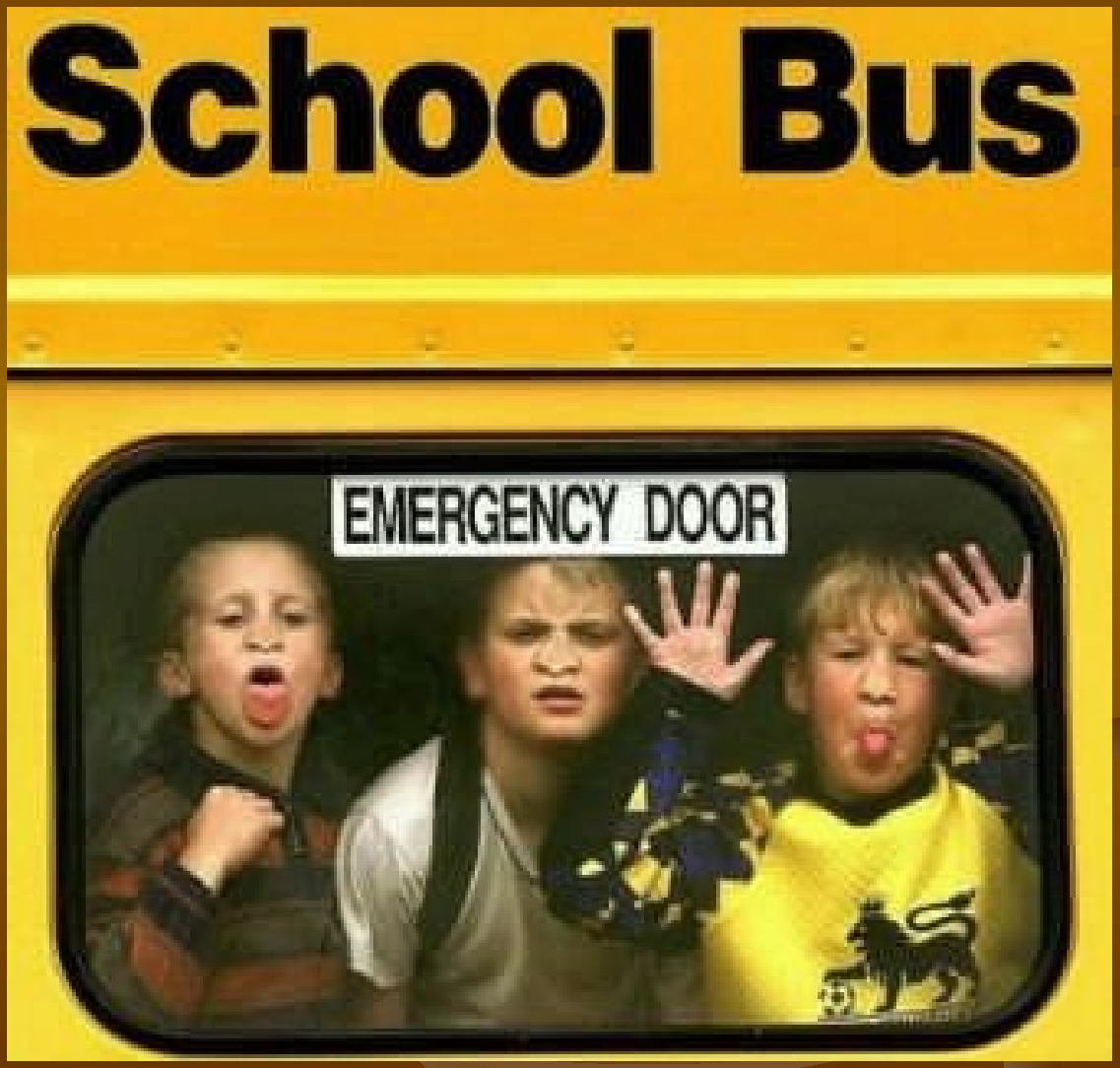
Regulators/Governmental Agencies



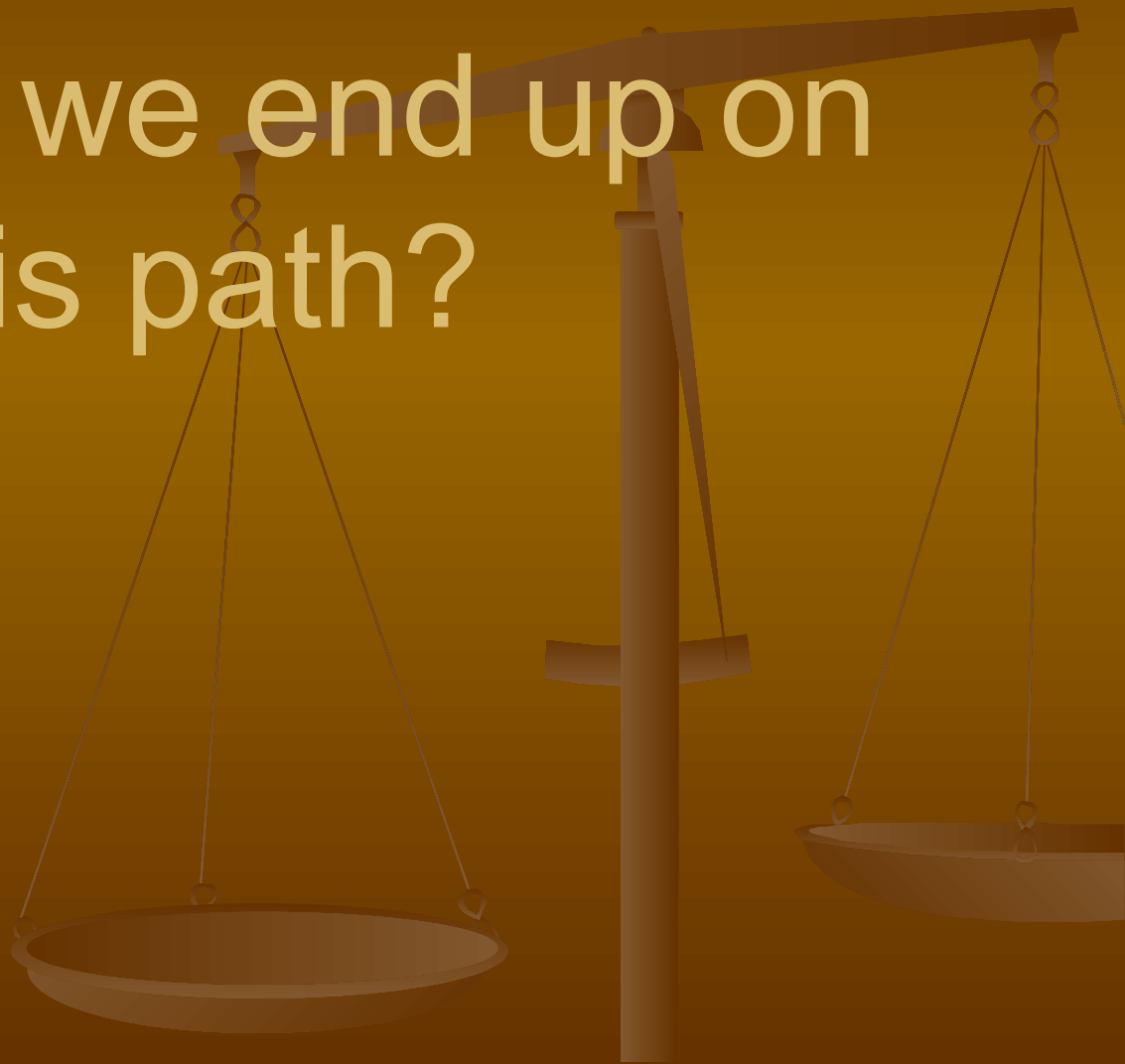
Politicians



Homeowners



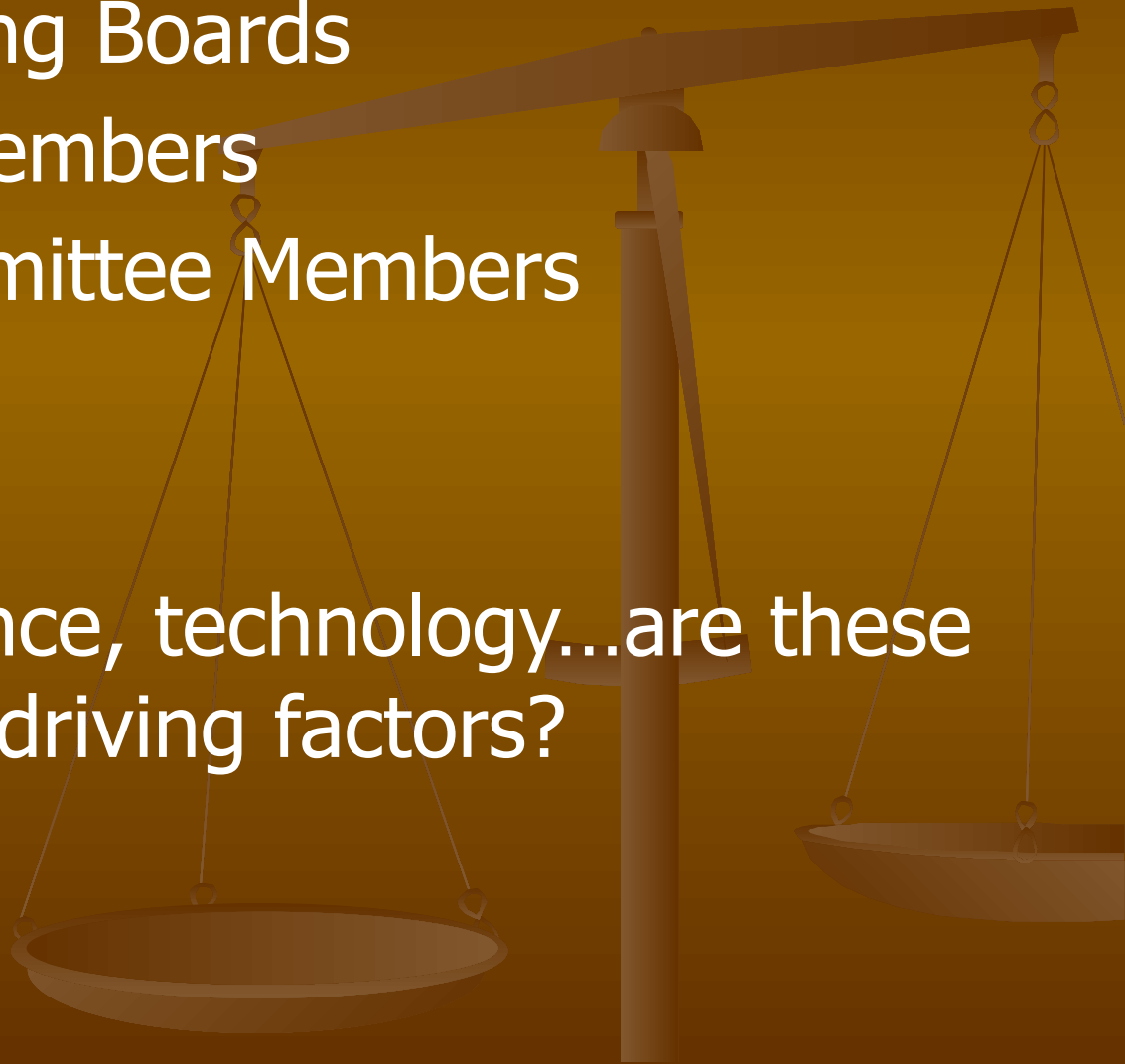
How did we end up on this path?



Could it be policy makers?

- Regional Planning Boards
- Local Council Members
- Appointed Committee Members
- Legislators

Knowledge, science, technology…are these the driving factors?



Not Always !!!!

Most often not!!!



Remember…

We’re onsite experts…

Now politics…

That’s SCARY!!!



Hire a Lobbyist !!!



There are NO guarantees in politics!!!

Remember …

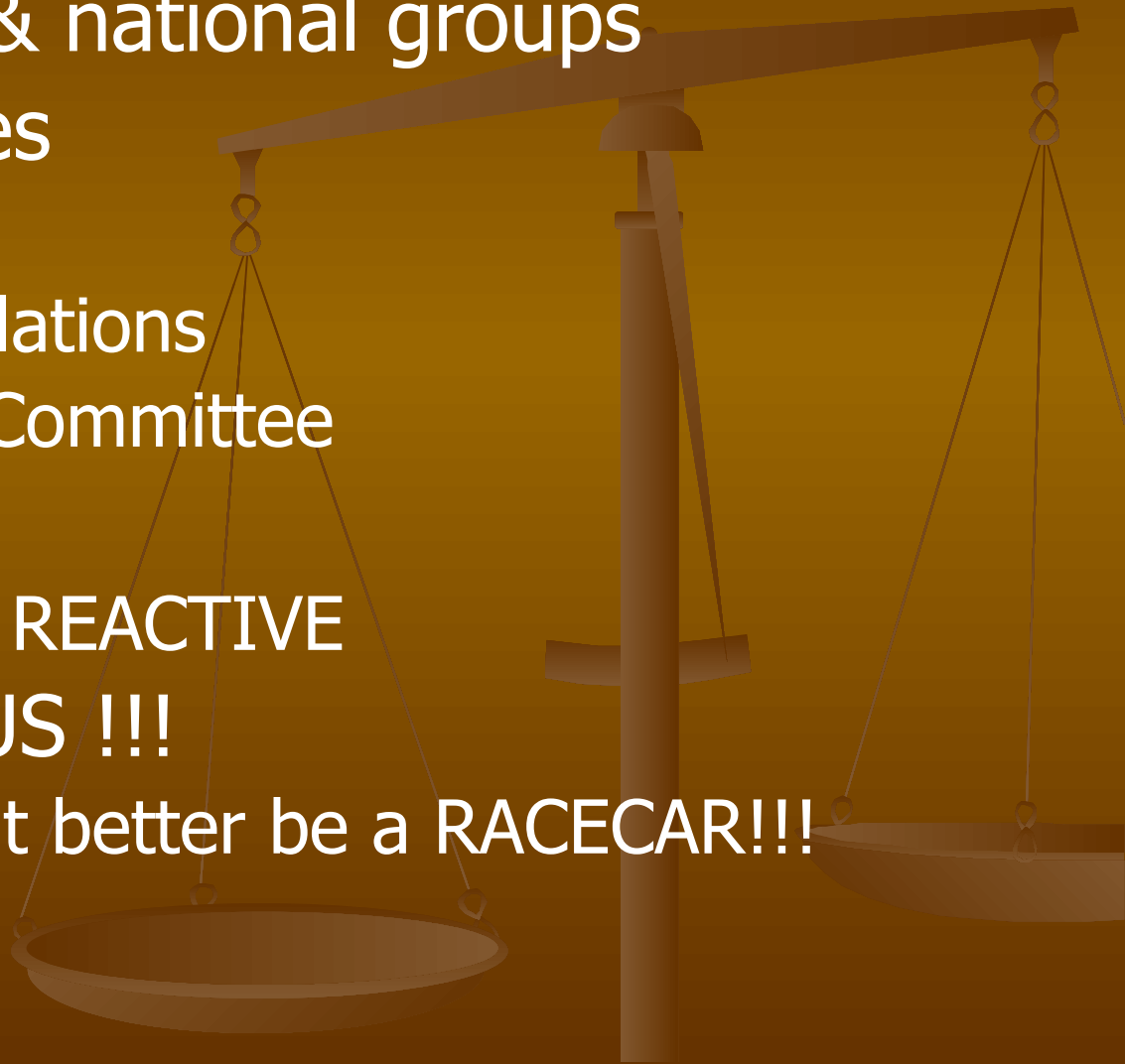
are knowledge, science, and technology the driving factors?

Not Always !!!!



How do you start?

- Join your state & national groups
- Form committees
  - Public Relations
  - Government Relations
  - Political Action Committee
- GET ACTIVE
  - PROACTIVE vs. REACTIVE
- DRIVE YOUR BUS !!!
  - As late as it is, it better be a RACECAR!!!



We having a saying at FOWA



"Get into Politics…
Or get out of Business"

A special thanks to Mark Hooks for the bus slides!!