AB32 is the California Global Warming Solutions Act. The bill hopes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 1990 levels by 2020. “Under-inflated tires waste fuel, cause tires to wear out prematurely, and increase drivers’ safety risk”, per Dan Zielinski. As the senior vice president with the Rubber Manufacturers Association, Mr. Zielinski represented tire manufacturers. He felt properly inflated tires would last longer, save more money in the long run for the consumer, and provide safety of everyone on the road. Mark Beaulieu understood Dan’s sentiment but disliked having to be responsible for each car that came to his auto repair shop. I believe each human being who is financially capable enough to purchase a car should have pride for that purchase and take good care of their belonging. Do we not bath and feed ourselves each day? Should we not also care for the means of our transportation? Luckily, we don’t need to check tire pressure every day or add gasoline every day; but checking tire pressure once a month is doable. Maybe there can be driving tickets for under-inflated tires? Maybe there can be one day each week at each gas station where people can get free air for their tires? Of course the government would need to subsidize those participating gas stations, who are promoting tire care. In CA, public transport is uncommon; in contrast, subways are a way of life for people in New York. I believe owning a car is a privilege and that tire health should be taught and recommended. As for enforcement, driving with under-inflated tires is risky. Car accidents can result in death and spending more money for car food or gasoline really is a judgment call each driver needs to make for himself/herself. After Governor Schwarzenegger signed the Global Warming Solutions Act on September 26, 2006, the ARB met several times brainstorming regulations, guidelines, and proposals. “It is estimated that more than 70% of all vehicles operate on at least one underinflated tire resulting in reduced gas mileage and increased emissions.” In June 21, 2007, the ARB met to discuss how to further address climate change emissions. They adopted 3 regulations – “reduce carbon intensity in California fuels, restrict sale of ‘do it yourself’ automotive refrigerants, and require broader use of state of the art methane capture technologies”.

Yes, for the government and residents of California, AB 32 was necessary. Increased gas emission affects air quality. Poor air quality decreases overall health.

The intentions are noble but the implementation will be difficult because humans are lazy by nature and fail to realize that they ought to take care of their bodies as well as their belongings. A flat tire will make the car run like a crippled man. It will take more energy to move a mile. The exhaust produced will decrease the overall air quality; and thus, we have been experiencing climate changes.

Each person makes a difference. Hopefully more people can understand the influence of their life and be responsible. Perhaps people don’t know how to check tire pressure and inflate their tires? Would tire care classes be beneficial and cost effective?

The greenhouse effect is occurring. It is a dangerous and insidious fact, perhaps being a pulmonologist would be a good calling, as more people will have respiratory complaints secondary to poor air quality.

Helping cars to run smoother and getting people to their destinations timely and safely is a benefit of proper tire care.