

Statement of Jed Faulkner, Farmville, Va.

I'm a father, a grandfather and a long-haul truck driver. I've been carrying lumber up and down the East Coast for 13 years.

My son and I bought a 1999 Ford Ranger pick-up truck in 2004 from a good-sized auto dealer in Farmville, Va. After a couple of years, we decided we wanted to trade it in for a newer one. The second dealer we went to told us that the VIN number on the Ford Ranger came up salvaged. I found out that the truck had been totaled and that between 1999 and 2003, it had 11 owners. We were number 12. We spent \$16,000 on it and another \$2,000 to restore the truck. We still have it, but it's not on the road. We leave it out on a farm where it's jacked up for "mud bogging." That's the only thing it's good for.

What worked me up the most was how someone must have been paid off so that the vehicle wouldn't have a salvage title like it was supposed to. If it had, we wouldn't have bought the vehicle in the first place.

God knows how many people in the state of Virginia have been shafted like this. People around these parts don't have the money to just write a check for a new car. We're living paycheck to paycheck and we work hard for our money. Why should dealers rake us over the coals?

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