



CITY OF TOPEKA

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An Accredited
Law Enforcement Agency



Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

On behalf of the Topeka Police Department I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you about the importance of HB2312. Metal thefts are plaguing many cities in our state. While the existing statutes have proven beneficial in our investigations, we must find better answers. In Topeka, copper thefts alone increased in 2010 over 2009 by a rate that concerns citizens, elected officials and law enforcement.

Crime	2009	2010
Burglaries involving Copper theft	30	67
Thefts of Copper	47	131
Attempted thefts of Copper	9	11

This bill will do two major things for us: 1) Provide the mechanism to assure better compliance of the existing scrap metal statutes found in KSA 50-6,109 et. seq. and; 2) enhance the consequences to those persons committing these crimes. Ultimately these will be tools law enforcement can use to deter as well as investigate these crimes. These are tools currently in use in Wichita by city ordinance and they have proven to be effective in responding to these crimes.

In many cases the cost to repair the facility where the metal is stolen from far exceeds the value of the metal itself. We must find ways to hold these criminals accountable for the total cost for the victims to restore their property. I have attached some photographs of crime scenes where these crimes have occurred.

Accountability of the scrap metal dealers through statewide licensing is critical to assuring they are keeping the records and fulfilling other requirements of the state law. Those laws were passed with the provisions to afford law enforcement the opportunity to quickly develop information and leads to aid in recovery of the stolen property and the identity of persons involved in the theft and disposal of the regulated metal.

Ed Klumpp and Whitney Damron are here and can explain the details of the bill. I am here today to express my support for this bill.

On behalf of the Topeka Police Department and all of Kansas law enforcement I urge you to pass this bill favorably to help us deter and investigate these crimes which cost Kansans dearly.

Ronald Miller
Chief of Police
Topeka Police Department

Senate Judiciary

3-14-11

Attachment 6