Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2470, which corrects a mistake made during the 2011 Veto Session. During the final days of the 2011 session, language in subsection e – 9 on page 2 of HB 2312 was stricken in conference committee. Due to a revisor error, this language was left in the bill and signed by the Governor.

The result is that scrap metal dealers who are trying to buy stripped copper wire are unable to do so because ownership of the wire cannot be proven once the sheathing is removed even if the wire was obtained legally. The unintended consequence is that those dealers who are abiding by the law are unable to purchase this used copper, while those who buy it illegally continue to do so.

Scrap metal dealers who abide by the law, are required to keep extensive records of any copper purchases. It is my belief that these dealers should not be further punished for a mistake on the part of the legislature and subject to the resulting monetary loss.

HB 2470 simply corrects the mistake made in 2011 and I urge your swift deliberation.