



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Before the Senate Committee on Judiciary
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Chairperson Warren and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Jacobs and I serve as the Executive Officer for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony today in support of HB 2326. This bill proposes to extend the sunset for the provisions of the Scrap Metal Theft Reduction Act (K.S.A. 50-6109) and to add “catalytic converters” to the list of reportable items.

The Scrap Metal Reduction Act has assisted law enforcement across the state by providing officers with the needed information to help investigate and reduce metal thefts in their communities. Copper, which was once the primary target of metal thieves, has been replaced with catalytic converters due to the various precious metals contained within these items.

In July 2020, the KBI began collecting information on scrap metal sales. This information is kept in the KBI Scrap Metal Repository. **As of January 1, 2023, the KBI had recorded the sales of over 9.6 million items of scrap metal in Kansas.** Law enforcement has access to the database and can conduct queries of the database to assist them in the investigation of scrap metal thefts.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 thus far there have been 1567 law enforcement queries of the Scrap Metal Repository. In 2021, the KBI worked with our law enforcement partners to initiate a statewide catalytic converter awareness project that included additional access to and familiarity with the Scrap Metal Repository.

The KBI agrees with the addition of the term “*catalytic converter*” to the statute as well as the definition for the term “*catalytic converter*” as amended in HB 2326.

Finally, the KBI supports extending the sunset on the Scrap Metal Theft Reduction Act. Prolonging this statute and the scrap metal program will allow law enforcement to continue to utilize the Scrap Metal Repository as a tool in the criminal investigation and subsequent reduction of scrap metal and specifically catalytic converter thefts in Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and we encourage the committee to pass HB 2326 favorably out of committee.

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