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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee  
In Support of SB11  
January 20, 2015**

Chairman King and Committee Members,

Our associations support SB11. Metal thefts continue to be a major crime problem in Kansas. It is not only affecting urban areas but also rural areas. Buildings that are vacant or under construction are frequently victimized. Utility companies, irrigation systems, and other farm and ranch related metal are all targets. This crime is costing businesses direct financial losses and lost production time. This is not just an urban problem, it is not just a Wichita problem, or Topeka problem, or Kansas City problem. This is a statewide problem impacting both rural and urban areas of our state.

Criminals are transporting these stolen items to other jurisdictions to convert their stolen goods. They know a weak link in our system is the ability to track the stolen items to scrap yards away from the area of the criminal act.

This bill is the product of extensive work led by the Sedgwick County District Attorney who brought together all of the affected entities to find common ground in a comprehensive solution to the problem. That team approach to this problem was enhanced when last year the legislature referred this matter to the Judicial Council for work over the interim. That work has polished the contents of the bill and brought even more agreement between the parties. We believe this bill will make a significant positive impact on this major statewide crime problem.

We will not attempt to duplicate the explanation of all the components of the bill, as we know other proponents are covering that. But to hit a few highlights, a central database of the transactions is essential to investigating these crimes and the recovery of property. This is critical because if we don't find the stolen items quickly they will be gone. It will also help us identify criminal patterns. This has been a program used for years in the pawn shop industry and has been very effective. The provisions in the first six sections of the bill creating state industry oversight is also a critical component.

We encourage the committee to recommend this bill favorably for passage.

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