



TESTIMONY OF THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
TO THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
ON SB 11

JANUARY 20, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding a hearing on this bill. I appreciate the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of SB 11.

Kansas communities and citizens have seen a huge increase in scrap metal theft over the last decade, causing serious damage to property and the victims' finances when they pay for costly repairs.

The Judicial Council Scrap Metal Theft Advisory Committee included an array of individuals touched by this issue, and the committee spent the fall studying the problem and writing a new law allowing better regulation of scrap metal theft.

This legislation creates consistency throughout the state of Kansas by establishing a single state agency for registration and enforcement of laws pertaining to scrap metal dealers. SB 11 places these functions with the Kansas Attorney General. SB 11 also creates a central repository of information for law enforcement that will aid in investigations and ultimately enforcement of the laws. In addition to these changes, SB 11 also increases the criminal penalties for repeat scrap metal thefts.

KAC believes SB 11 is a good rewrite of the law, and we ask that you support the legislation.

Melissa Wangemann, General Counsel