



QUARRIES
 CONSTRUCTION
 ASPHALT
 WASTE MANAGEMENT

609 Perry Place
 PO Box 17
 Perry, KS 66073-0017
 Telephone 785-597-5111
 FAX 785-597-5117

14 March 2011

Chairman Tim Owens
 Senate Committee on Judiciary
 State Capitol Building, Room 559-S
 Topeka, Kansas 66612

In re HB 2312 – Scrap Metal Theft

Dear Chairman Owens:

By way of introduction, my name is Charlie Sedlock, Division Manager for Hamm, Inc. located in Perry, Kansas. Hamm, Inc. is a mining, construction, and waste services firm operating in eastern Kansas that employs 250-300 Kansans. We understand your committee is considering legislation that would increase the penalties for metal theft and provide a statewide licensing system for those involved in the scrap metal business. On behalf of Hamm, Inc., I would like to convey our strong support for this important piece of legislation.

Our company has been the victim of a number of metal thefts in the past year, including the loss of tens of thousands of dollars of equipment and metal. These crimes are difficult to prevent in our business, as we often work and have equipment in rural areas of the state where there are few witnesses to these kinds of crimes. Each time a theft occurs, we suffer major monetary and production losses in excess of \$50,000.

For example, during the past two years we have had the following incidents at our quarry locations:

- Two copper wire thefts at North Lawrence, KS Quarry
- Copper wire theft at Meriden, KS Quarry
- Copper wire theft at Circleville, KS Quarry
- Copper wire theft at Woodbine, KS Quarry

We support your efforts to increase penalties on the criminals involved in this activity and the creation of a regulatory structure for the scrap metal business that can help insure responsible dealers are allowed to conduct their business can continue to do so and those who are willing accomplices to the thieves are not allowed to remain in business.

If you have questions in regard to our comments, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Charlie Sedlock

Senate Judiciary
 3-14-11
 Attachment 10