

March 14, 2011

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Bud Burke and I appear here today on behalf of Advantage Metal Recyclers.

HB 2312 would require all metal recyclers in the State to be licensed by either the County or City in which their facility is located. Not only would this be yet one more Mandate on Local Government it would also be a deterrent to future investment in Kansas.

The cost of a metal recycling center can range in the \$1 million to \$2 million dollars and there would be no assurance that the license would be renewed by the local government for some, even minor, infraction. Who would make future investments with the uncertainty expressed with licensure provisions of HB 2312.

HB 2312 is exactly the wrong way to grow the Kansas economy and create jobs.

Advantage Metals is only one of many recyclers in the State that run a very tightly controlled company. They have over \$21 million in investment and 160 employees.

There are some good provisions that have been discussed with the proponents of the bill that we strongly support;

- \* Procedures that require positive identification of the seller
- \* The requirement that the property from which the material is stolen be Restored to the condition it was in before the theft
- \* The concept of forming a task force or working group as Colorado has proposed or Missouri has in place. The group would consist of Law Enforcement, Metal Recyclers, Local Officials, Legislators and others who would work to develop an overall strategy to stop the metal thieves.

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