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Kansas Grain & Feed Association
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Association of Ethanol Processors

DATE: January 20, 2015

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: **Ronald Seeber, Senior Vice President**
Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA)
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA)
Kansas Association of Ethanol Processors (KAEP)

Leslie Kaufman, President and CEO
Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC)

RE: **Written Testimony in Support of SB 418: Regarding Scrap Metal Theft Regulations and Penalties**

Chairman King and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing us to offer testimony in support of SB 11.

KGFA is a voluntary trade association with a membership encompassing the entire spectrum of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in the state of Kansas. The KCC represents all types of cooperative businesses in Kansas including agriculture marketing and supply, utilities, financial co-ops and consumer cooperatives. KARA is a voluntary trade association whose membership includes over 700 agribusiness firms that are primarily retail facilities supplying fertilizers, crop protection chemicals, and seed to Kansas farmers. KAEP is a state-wide trade association representing Kansas ethanol processors which together produce nearly 500 million gallons of ethanol annually, and bring millions of dollars of revenue and economic development to Kansas communities.

These four associations noted above stand in support of SB 11, a bill which empowers the Attorney General to fight scrap metal theft and strengthens the definition of "aggravated criminal damage to property" to include agribusinesses and other KCC members, as well. Our members have reported a sustained (if not increased) level of scrap metal theft the last few years and that this illicit activity has taken considerable financial toll on the industry. Not only do our members suffer from the actual metal loss, but the activities thieves undertake to get to valuable materials cause property damage to security mechanisms, structures, machinery and other equipment. We appreciate the recent efforts made by the legislature to address this problem, but our members firmly believe additional steps need to be taken and the current policy needs tightening.

We hope that as the committee members hear concerns from agribusiness and other industry and business representatives, they understand how far reaching this theft epidemic has become and will consider approving SB 11. Thank you for your support.