



**Kansas Grain & Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Renew Kansas**

March 14, 2018

To: Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President & General Counsel
RE: **Neutral Testimony on Senate Bill 429, delaying certain provisions of the scrap metal theft reduction act.**

Chairperson Tyson and members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 429. This testimony is being submitted jointly by the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA), and Renew Kansas.

KGFA is the state association of the grain storage, handling, and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership represents 99% of the commercially-licensed grain storage in the state. KARA membership includes over 700 agribusiness firms that supply fertilizers, crop protection products, seed, petroleum products, and agricultural services to Kansas farmers. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the Kansas ethanol processing industry.

In 2015, the legislature passed the *Scrap Metal Theft Reduction Act* which was intended to fight scrap metal theft and strengthen the definition of "aggravated criminal damage to property" to include agribusiness. Our members supported this legislation due to the increased levels of scrap metal thefts that have occurred in recent years, and the direct expenses undertaken by our industry due to these thefts. These thefts generally caused additional property damage to structures, fencing, security mechanisms, and equipment.

We appreciate the recent efforts made by the legislature to address this serious problem, but we also understand that the regulatory oversight might need some additional time to be stood up as the 2015 act had envisioned. While we understand the need for the extension allotted by this bill, we want to restate our support of the underlying act to this committee.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on SB 429.