



Date: May 2, 2019
Re: Senate Bill 219
From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council
Subject: Written Proponent Testimony
To: House Judiciary Committee

Chairman Patton and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 219. The Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC) represents all types of cooperatively structured businesses including agriculture marketing and supply, rural electric, telecom, credit unions, the farm credit system, and risk management cooperatives.

Our agricultural cooperatives are particularly vulnerable to scrap metal theft. As thieves strip the copper wiring and piping from farms and irrigation equipment, they leave thousands of dollars' worth of damage in the process that can cause huge increases in our insurance premiums.

The KCC strongly supported the Legislature's enactment of the scrap metal theft reduction act in 2015 as a way to strengthen penalties and track transactions by scrap dealers and recycling centers. We also understood the implementation delay from lack of funding for the statewide database that was cost prohibitive at the time. However, our goal has always been to see the entire act fully implemented as soon as possible. It is our understanding that a State General Fund appropriation request will be included in this year's omnibus budget bill.

The KCC stands in support of the amendments to the scrap metal theft reduction act found in SB 219. We believe that this legislation addresses many of the concerns made by scrap metal dealers and is a healthy compromise between most stakeholders involved.

Thank you for the chance to comment today.

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