



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Renew Kansas Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
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May 2, 2019

To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Randy E. Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Re: **Proponent, Joint, Written Testimony on Senate Bill 219, transferring responsibility for the scrap metal database to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation**

Chairman Patton and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Substitute for Senate Bill 219. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), Renew Kansas Biofuels Association, and Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA).

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in Kansas whose membership represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in Kansas. Renew Kansas Biofuels Association is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels industry. KARA is a trade association of over 700 agribusiness firms that supply agricultural inputs and services to Kansas farmers.

Scrap metal theft takes a financial toll on these industries, and the associations above stand in support of Substitute for Senate Bill 219 which attempts to align the interest of stakeholders in the fight against scrap metal theft.

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 had occurred, and the direct expenses undertaken by our industry as a result. Scrap metal theft generally cause much greater property damage than just the lost value of the metal stolen.

We appreciate the past efforts made by the legislature to address this problem. Substitute for Senate Bill 219 proposes changes to that act by moving the administration of the database to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, and reducing the registration fee for scrap metal dealers. Much good work was done by the stakeholders to respond to concerns from the scrap dealers.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of Substitute for Senate Bill 219. The *Scrap Metal Theft Reduction Act* remains sound policy today. The amendments to the act proposed by this bill serve to improve upon the current law. For the reasons stated above, we would respectfully request that the committee pass this bill out favorably.