



Date: March 18, 2019
Re: Senate Bill 219
From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council
Subject: Proponent Testimony
To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Honorable Chairman Wilborn 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 utility substations, 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 scrap metal 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.

SB 219 makes several changes to the scrap metal theft reduction act that will finally provide the funding, housing, and development needed to enact current law. It moves the administration of the database to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, charges a minimal \$1 tonnage fee on scrap metal sales over 100 pounds, and reduces the maximum registration fee for dealers in half to \$750. It is our understanding that there is agreement amongst many of the stakeholders involved in the discussions on this legislation.

For these reasons, the KCC stands in support of the amendments to the scrap metal theft reduction act found in SB 219. Thank you for the chance to comment today.

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