



**Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Renew Kansas Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association**
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March 18, 2019

To: Senate 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, and reducing the registration fee for scrap metal dealers**

Chairman Wilborn and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of 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 across Kansas. Renew Kansas Association is the trade association of the Kansas ethanol and biofuels industry. KARA is a trade association of over 700 agribusiness firms that supply agricultural inputs and services to Kansas farmers.

Scrap metal theft activity takes a financial toll on the industry, and the associations above stand in support of SB 219, which attempts to align the parties of interest in the fight against scrap metal theft.

We appreciate the efforts previously made by the legislature to address this problem in passage of the scrap metal theft reduction act. Senate Bill 219 proposes sound changes to that act by moving the administration of the database to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, proposing a reasonable excise tax to fund oversight of the act, and reducing the current registration fee, by half, for each scrap metal dealer. Much good work was done by the proponents of the bill to respond to concerns from the scrap dealers about the current requirements of the act.

The scrap metal theft reduction act was initially passed as a response to growing theft of metal across the state. The act remains sound policy today, and the amendments to the act proposed by Senate Bill 219 serve to improve upon the current law.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 219. For the reasons stated above, we would respectfully request that the committee pass this bill out favorably.