



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Director

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Neutral Testimony on SB 344
Before the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Kirk Thompson, Director
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
February 12, 2020

Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kirk Thompson and I currently serve as the Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI). Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony with regard to Senate Bill 344 which proposes the removal of a requirement of the Scrap Metal Theft Reduction Act for a scrap metal dealer to take and retain a photograph of any vehicle in which regulated scrap metal is delivered to the dealer.

As you know, the scrap metal reduction act has already been the subject of a great deal of collaboration and compromise, much of which dealt directly with the type of information that will be included in the required repository being developed by the KBI. While we will be supportive of whatever results from the Legislative process, it is important to note that the value of the system under development may be negatively impacted by this proposal. I do believe that the photograph of the delivery vehicle could be useful in some circumstances to help local law enforcement and KBI crime analysts as they work to identify those responsible for scrap metal thefts. The removal of this requirement, however, is not viewed as fatal to the Act's effectiveness. Should the committee decide to approve the proposed change, I would ask that careful consideration be given to any further reduction in the amount of information collected and the resulting lack of efficacy to the repository.

I would also like to make the committee aware that significant financial investment has been made to create and deploy the scrap metal repository as envisioned by the act. While the change related to the removal of the singular photograph requirement will not affect the cost or deployment schedule as it currently exists, any further changes may well affect our ability to deliver the repository on time and within budget.

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