



February 16, 2021

Memorandum:

To: Senate Utilities Committee
From: Thomas M. Palace Executive Director Fuel True
Re: Written Only Support SB 172

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Utilities Committee:

My name is Tom Palace. I am the Executive Director of Fuel True formally known as the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas (PMCA of Kansas), a statewide trade association representing over 250 independent Kansas Energy distribution companies and convenience store retailers throughout Kansas.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, Fuel True Supports SB 172.

SB 172 adds tougher penalties for individuals that tamper, damage, or vandalize critical infrastructure. Oil refineries and pipelines are critical to the petroleum industry and damage that could cause an interruption of fuel deliveries to service stations throughout the state would have a major impact on all Kansans.

Safety at these facilities is of the utmost importance and we have a number of regulations that require our members to have safety precautions in place for industry related problems.

Refineries and pipelines represent sensitive targets for perpetrators and as such we support elevated criminal penalties to deter targeted attacks.

SB 172 – also ensures that people who tamper with critical infrastructure and cause damage will be held financially liable for their actions. This is important because repairs to refineries and pipelines are expensive and someone that causes intentional damage should be held responsible criminally and financially.

We urge the committee's passage of SB 172.

Thank You