



# Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Tony Mattivi  
*Director*

Kris W. Kobach  
*Attorney General*

Before the House Judiciary Committee  
Robert Jacobs, Executive Officer  
Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
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Chairman Patton and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Jacobs and I serve as the Executive Officer for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony today in support of HB 2326. This bill proposes to extend the sunset for the provisions of the Scrap Metal Theft Reduction Act (K.S.A. 50-6109) and to add “catalytic converters” to the list of reportable items.

The Scrap Metal Reduction Act has assisted law enforcement across the state by providing officers with the needed information to help investigate and reduce metal thefts in their communities. Copper, which was once the primary target of metal thieves has been replaced with catalytic converters, due to the various precious metals contained within these items.

In July 2020, the KBI began collecting information on scrap metal sales. This information is kept in the KBI Scrap Metal Repository. **As of January 1, 2023, the KBI has recorded the sales of over 9.6 million items of scrap metal in Kansas.** Law enforcement has access to the database and can conduct queries of the database to assist them in the investigation of scrap metal thefts.

To date, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 there have been 1567 law enforcement queries of the Scrap Metal Repository. In 2021, the KBI worked with our law enforcement partners to initiate a statewide catalytic converter awareness project that included additional access to and familiarity with the Scrap Metal Repository.

The KBI supports the addition of “catalytic converter” to the statute and would further recommend that a definition for the term “catalytic converter” be included in the statute as well.

Finally, the KBI supports extending the sunset on the Scrap Metal Theft Reduction Act. Prolonging this statute and the scrap metal program will allow law enforcement to continue to utilize the Scrap Metal Repository as a tool in the criminal investigation and subsequent reduction of scrap metal and specifically catalytic converter thefts in Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and we encourage the committee to pass HB 2326 favorably out of committee.

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