KANSAS AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1932

March 14, 2023

To: The Honorable Kellie Warren, Chairwoman
        and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Don McNeely, KADA President

Re: HB 2326 - AN ACT concerning consumer protection; relating to the scrap metal theft
        reduction act; clarifying that catalytic converters are regulated scrap metal; extending the expiration date of
        the act; amending K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 50-6,109 and 50-6,112d and repealing the existing sections.

Good morning, Chairwoman Warren and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Don McNeely and I am the President of the Kansas Automobile Dealers Association, which represents the franchised new car and truck dealers in Kansas. On behalf of KADA, I am submitting this written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Automobile Dealers Association in support of HB 2326.

The thefts of catalytic converters continue to rise exponentially year-over-year, largely due to skyrocketing prices of palladium, platinum, and rhodium, which are the precious metals housed in catalytic converters. Thieves can remove catalytic converters from vehicles in just a few minutes and extract precious metals for resale. Stolen catalytic converters can be sold on the black market anywhere from $200 to $350, with the replacement cost to vehicle owners averaging over $2,500. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau catalytic converter thefts have increased 1,215% nationwide since the pandemic began.

The extension of the Scrap Metal Theft Reduction Act and the clarification that catalytic converters are included in the definition of "regulated scrap metal" will assist local law enforcement in their efforts to address and deter theft of catalytic converters statewide. For these reasons, KADA respectfully requests your support of HB 2326.