

KANSAS SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

PROPONENT TESTIMONY – HB 2326

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KANSAS**

March 14, 2023

Chair Sen. Kellie Warren and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of AT&T, I submit this letter in support of HB2326.

The scrap metal theft reduction act has been a helpful tool in combatting theft of valuable communications equipment by limiting markets for re-sale. By extending the expiration of the act, the Legislature is ensuring law enforcement has the tools they need to pursue and prosecute scrap metal theft activity.

AT&T's legacy network, which relies on copper infrastructure, has been a target of thieves for years. When networks, like AT&T's, are targeted, it can lead to network outages, inconveniencing thousands of Kansans and even risking lives when customers cannot communicate in emergency situations.

Additionally, despite significant efforts to irreversibly mark catalytic converters to make them unattractive to thieves, we experience instances of theft nearly every month in Kansas. Specifically designating catalytic converters as regulated scrap is an important addition to the act as our fleet of service vehicles and networks are directly impacted by the expense and downtime associated with stolen converters.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request your support for HB2326.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Ruffin
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