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To: House Judiciary Committee
From: Darrian L Campbell, Sheriff
Ref: HB 2253

14 Feb 2025


I am writing this letter to request the Committee take into consideration a few things we are and have experienced in Reno County Kansas within the past year.

There are four individuals which live in the western region of Reno County. Within this region, Reno County is bordered by three other counties. A Reno County Detective has been assigned 19 criminal cases involving these four people which entail them stealing or being in possession of stolen vehicles, motorcycles or all terrain vehicles (ATVs). Three of these individuals have been incarcerated and there have not been any more victims or vehicles stolen. Coincidence? Due to the court's inability to detain these individuals for misdemeanor property crimes, they are released on bond and return to creating victims. Consider the victims' point of view when they live in a remote rural community and their vehicle is stolen and destroyed. They cannot get to work or go anywhere. It destroys their life.

The problem lies with stealing a vehicle which is low in value. A misdemeanor and will have a very low bond. A misdemeanor is not a person crime, so it is viewed lesser than a person crime. Meaning it only involved property. When these folks are released by the court and they commit further crimes, they not only create more victims, but they also run from the cops and create an environment that someone could be seriously injured or killed. We as law enforcement decide the balance, if the risk is worth it. When they should be locked up and penalized for stealing someone else's property no matter the value.

This does not take into consideration the crimes and victims these individuals have created in the surrounding counties. For example, one individual was released from Reno County Jail by the courts and was just transferred to another county jail due to the crimes they committed in that jurisdiction.

Thank you for taking any or all of this into consideration when making your decision to hold people accountable for their actions.


Darrian L. Campbell
Reno County Sheriff