



Recycled Materials Association (ReMA) Testimony to HB328

Chair Abrams, Vice Chair Williams, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on HB 328 concerning the sale of catalytic converters in Ohio. My name is Jonithon LaCross, and I am an Attorney with Porter Wright. Today, I am representing the Ohio Valley and Northern Ohio Chapters of the Recycled Materials Association (ReMA), formerly known as the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI).

ReMA represents over 115 member businesses across Ohio who process, broker and consume scrap commodities, including metals, paper, plastics, glass, rubber, electronics, and textiles. These businesses are an integral part of the manufacturing process, with the industry in Ohio supporting over 26,000 jobs and generating a total economic impact of \$6 billion. They are the original recyclers in our state.

We appreciate Chair Abrams, Representative Roemer, and Representative Plummer for their work on addressing not only catalytic converter theft in Ohio but the unlawful actors that undermine the legitimate businesses of recycling and manufacturing. I want to thank Chair Abram's for her partnership on this issue and her willingness to find solutions. I also want to thank Representative Roemer and Representative Plummer on their willingness to collaborate and listen to the industries concerns. Finally, I also want to thank Representative Seitz, who has been and continues to be an integral part of creating common sense scrap metal laws and regulation in Ohio.

HB 328 has evolved into a better bill through the communication and work amongst the parties. We believe that there is good policy in this legislation that will address the individual retail theft of catalytic converters and the unlicensed businesses that purchase them. Although this is a better bill, the legislation still places further regulations on legitimate, licensed businesses, and we must unfortunately remain opposed. Our opposition is to the following requirements:

1. The requirement that any scrap metal dealer, or other person who receives used catalytic converters in the ordinary course of business, must provide additional purchase and transfer information to the Department of Public Safety.
2. The same requirements that apply to special purpose articles also apply to catalytic converters—specifically, the 48-hour hold and payment by check--.

ReMA appreciates the work that has gone into this legislation and the continued consideration of our recommendations. As the process continues in the Senate, we will continue to work with Chair Abrams, Representative Roemer, and Representative Plummer to find solutions that address our concerns.

Thank you for your time and thank you again to all that have and will continue to work on this legislation. I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.
