



Our mission
To act as the Ohio property and
casualty insurance industry's voice
on matters affecting or involving the industry.

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Written-Only Proponent Testimony—HB 210 Catalytic Converters (Roemer, Plummer)

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Chair Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of House Bill 210.

I am Michael Farley, and I have the distinct honor to serve as the Vice President, Government Affairs and General Counsel for the Ohio Insurance Institute (“OII”). The OII is a trade and information association of more than 55 Ohio-based property and casualty insurance companies and related affiliate organizations. OII members write approximately 90% of home and auto insurance in Ohio and 81% of home insurance. And OII members write more than three-quarters of the commercial insurance in the state.

Catalytic converter theft is a significant concern for Ohio’s motorists and we applaud the sponsors for their efforts to curb this issue. Catalytic converters contain high-value precious metals – including rhodium, palladium, and platinum – making them a lucrative target for potential thieves. Moreover, these components can be stolen very easily and quickly, often in as little as 30 seconds to a few minutes by an experienced thief using basic power tools. Given these facts, incidents of catalytic converter theft more than quadrupled nationwide between 2020 and 2022, according to data from our partners at the National Insurance Crime Bureau (“NICB”). It should be noted that replacing a catalytic converter commonly costs a vehicle owner several thousand dollars.

In recent years, other states have enacted legislation to address catalytic converter theft – and they’ve seen significant declines. These new laws have made it more difficult for thieves to sell stolen converters and, in doing so, made it much harder for them to profit from such illicit activity. The OII believes that the provisions of HB 210 will have a similar downward effect on the profitability – and thus, hopefully – the prevalence of catalytic converter theft.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for the opportunity to voice our support for House Bill 210. Too many Ohioans are presently being subjected to the cost and inconvenience of replacing stolen catalytic converters, and we believe that HB 210 is a needed step towards alleviating this burden. We urge the committee’s favorable consideration of this legislation.