



OHIO WHOLESALE MARKETERS ASSOCIATION

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House Bill 110 – Catalytic Converter Theft House Criminal Justice Committee

**Statement of Support
Beth Wymer, Executive Director
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On behalf of the members of the Ohio Wholesale Marketers Association, thank you for the opportunity to provide a statement of support for House Bill 110, regarding the sale of catalytic converters.

As background, OWMA's core membership is wholesalers who supply products to convenience stores and similar retailers in Ohio and the Midwest region. Their businesses rely on the ability to move products from their warehouses to the retail locations they supply, using well-thought-out delivery routes and schedules. Having part of their fleet of vehicles out of service due to catalytic converter theft is an expensive disruption that impacts not only their operations, but also the retailers who may not receive scheduled inventory replacements.

OWMA's members are already struggling with finding enough drivers to keep all of their delivery trucks on the road. Imagine being short staffed on drivers, which is already impacting delivery logistics, and then discovering that some of your delivery vans or trucks can't go out. OWMA's members take security seriously, both in their warehouses and for their delivery vehicles, but that does not protect them from catalytic converter theft, even when trucks are in locked gated areas with security cameras.

In addition to the quick operation pivots that have to happen when a vehicle is down, catalytic converter thefts are expensive in terms of repair costs and insurance premium impacts. A business shared from personal experience that the time to get replacement and repair parts is also delaying getting damaged vehicles back in service.

As you know, this bill was introduced and had hearings in the last General Assembly. House Bill 110 reflects that same bill and also includes positive additions that came from the bill sponsors' conversations with law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys and scrap metal recycling industry representatives. OWMA appreciates that House Bill 110 is taking steps to categorize catalytic converters as special purchase articles under Ohio's scrap recycling laws, and we are hopeful that enactment of the bill will deter catalytic converter theft from the vehicles of individuals and Ohio's businesses.

On behalf of OWMA's members, the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 110 is appreciated.