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## **HB 2403 – Metal Recycling**

April 29, 2013

Chair Floyd Prozanski  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Prozanski and Committee Members,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify regarding HB 2403 which received unanimous support from the House. This measure helps promote metal recycling while clearing up language that causes a burden on scrap metal businesses working with law enforcement to prevent metal theft.

Less than a decade ago, Oregon was suffering from an epidemic of metal theft...power lines from electric companies, farming irrigation systems, and even guard rails from bridges were being stolen and turned into scrap metal businesses for money. As a result, this negatively impacted our community and economy.

In 2009, we enacted SB 570, the most powerful and effective legislation in our nation to address the metal theft epidemic. The new law was successful and metal theft went down, but in the process we placed a significant burden upon our metal recycling businesses.

With the help and input of several metal scrap businesses, Sheriffs from three different counties, and a few District Attorneys, HB 2403 was crafted. The bill makes the following changes:

**1. Provides metal recyclers a way to mail payment to a post office box**

Currently, there is no provision to allow mailing payment to a post office box. There is a portion of the population, specifically in rural areas, that do not have mail receptacles at their street address. These changes would allow a provision for them to receive their payments as long as the PO Box is listed on their current government-issued photo identification with a street address.

**2. Allows (it's optional) a metal recycler to release payment directly to an individual if their check was undelivered after 10 days**

Currently, there is a provision that allows a recycler to request permission from law enforcement to release payment directly to an individual if their check was "returned as undeliverable," but there is no provision for payments that are undelivered or lost in the mail. This allows for the

metal recycler to request permission to release payment of a lost check without having to mail the replacement.

**3. Simplifies process for issuing payment to a commercial seller or non-profit**

In order for a metal recycler to issue payment to a commercial seller or non-profit, the deliverer must be on an authorized list provided by the commercial seller. This can cause issues with new employees and especially for non-profit organizations trying to receive payment for scrap metal. This change would allow anyone to deliver if payment is going to a commercial seller or non-profit. Instead of requiring commercial sellers to provide authorized deliverers, they would be required to provide a list of individuals authorized to receive payment.

Thank you for listening. I urge you to support HB 2403 and pass the bill as is.

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