

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee –

Thank you for this opportunity to address you today. My name is Peter Van Houten, I am the President of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of ISRI (Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries) and the General Manager of Bob's Metals Inc. a metal scrap recycler in N. Portland.

ISRI is an international organization representing approximately 1,300 members of the recycling industry operating more than 4,000 locations in the US and 41 countries. Our members range in size from small family-owned firms, such as Bob's Metals Inc., to large multinational corporations, such as Schnitzer.

Scrap recycling is a major contributor in the transformation of end-of-life products and industrial scrap into commodity grade source materials for the manufacturing supply chain. ISRI and its members partner closely with organizations such as the EPA, OSHA, State and Local law enforcement and fire departments to create, promote and implement best practices of the recycling industry for environmental protection, resource conservation and sustainability, employee health and safety, community relations and education; fostering trade and commerce of its members; and aiding the industry by seeking to eliminate abusive and disruptive business practices and unfair competition. ISRI Members believe we have a moral and ethical imperative to operate safely for our employees, our customers and the communities we operate in and around. As an example, several of our facilities partner with and have been recognized for their efforts in providing 'real-life' training scenarios to local fire departments. Many of our members are actively involved in improving their employee safety programs through OSHA Consultation and SHARP certifications. All of our members partner with law enforcement agencies to reduce and prosecute metal-theft. The members whom are here today can testify that they have Emergency Fire Plans in place and have had those plans reviewed by their local fire departments.

It is unfortunate though that what brings us here today is the result of one company that as a result of their business practices had a catastrophic fire one year ago negatively impacting our community and the perception of our industry. The sad situation is that this could have been a preventable instance had they adhered to managing their operations in compliance with the existing local and state regulations pertaining to the environment, fire, health and safety controls.

As a representative of ISRI and Oregon Scrap Recyclers I applaud Speaker Kotek and Senator Frederick in their willingness to collaborate on defining a solution that empowers agencies to be more effective in dealing with those businesses that operate outside the rules that we all operate under. I also applaud their recognition that those that are operating within the rules are the 'Good Guys' and should not be penalized. Representing the Scrap Recycler Industry we support the amended SB 792-4.

My colleagues will expand further on our position related to the bill before you, but what I ask is that as you listen seek to understand how together we can partner in identifying and enforcing existing regulations on those businesses that operate outside of the moral and ethical imperative to be safe.

Thank you.