



February 7, 2023

Senator Ron Latz, Chair, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
3105 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Our associations, the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities (Metro Cities) and the Municipal Legislative Commission (MLC), representing cities throughout the metropolitan area, support SF 5 (Marty), which is being heard in the Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.

Catalytic converter thefts have increased significantly in the metropolitan region and state. Stolen catalytic converters are sold to scrap metal dealers because they contain precious metals like platinum, palladium, and rhodium. Catalytic converter thefts have significant consequences for both individual and community public safety.

Metro Cities and the Municipal Legislative Commission support the statutory changes in SF 5 that make it illegal to be in possession of one or more detached catalytic converters unless it is marked with its removal date and the identification number of the vehicle from which it was removed. We further support provisions in the bill that add requirements for scrap metal dealers purchasing catalytic converters. Requiring proof of lawful removal, delaying payment to sellers, prohibiting cash payments, and other guardrails included in the bill will help curb the theft of catalytic converters across the region and state.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Lund".

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Hovland".

Jim Hovland
Chair
Municipal Legislative Commission