



Moorhead Police Department
911 11th St N | PO Box 817
Moorhead, MN 56561
218.299.5120 | www.moorheadpolice.com



February 6, 2023

Senator Ron Latz, Chair and Members
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
2105 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Senate File 5 – Catalytic Converters

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Committee:

The City of Moorhead and the Moorhead Police Department, like most communities across the nation, have seen a significant increases in the theft of catalytic converters since mid-2020. We've partnered with other local law enforcement agencies in an effort to identify theft trends and build cases against multiple suspects during this time. Unfortunately, due to current laws, prosecution was very difficult.

Wanting to take action, the Moorhead Police Department participated in several public campaigns to include awareness campaigns, marking campaigns and Minnesota's Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention Pilot Program. In May 2022, the City of Moorhead amended it's city code to make possession of a used catalytic converter, not attached to a vehicle, a crime.

Since passing this ordinance, we've had some success identifying theft suspects and seizing suspected stolen catalytic converters. In 2022, we started to see a reduction in thefts, which we believe is attributed to the reduced value of the precious metals found in catalytic converters.

Nonetheless, we believe catalytic converter theft will continue to be a major problem for our community. Thefts of catalytic converters create significant hardships for victims with both the financial cost of catalytic converter replacement and lost use of a vehicle for significant periods of time waiting for repairs. For some victims, theses losses are devastating.

Senate File 5 gives law enforcement across the state a valuable tool to investigate and prosecute criminals who prey on our citizens and businesses. For this reason, the Moorhead Police Department respectfully requests your support for Senate File 5.

Sincerely,

Shannon Monroe
Chief of Police

By:

Sergeant Nick Schultz
Patrol Division Supervisor