

**Testimony SB 2242**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**January 25, 2021**

Madam Chair and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Molly Barnes and I am Vice President & Equipment Manager at Northern Improvement Company. Northern Improvement is a highway, heavy & municipal construction company with North Dakota offices in Fargo, Bismarck, and Dickinson. We have been in business since 1935 and are one of the founding members of the AGC of ND when it formed in 1951.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today and we support SB 2242. We appreciate the Senators introducing this and the Senate considering implementing it.

This type of theft has been an increasing issue with our business. On several occasions at our various locations across the state, we have been the victim of theft. Our Fargo location has a fenced in yard, yet in the last two years, we have had 5 catalytic converters stolen off pickups. Our Bismarck location has had 11 catalytic converters stolen in the last two years. Catalytic converters range from \$300 to \$1600 installed. If we average that, we get \$950.  $\$950 \times 16$  catalytic converter is over \$15,000. These are just the cost to install the converter. This does not include the labor cost to shuffle the vehicles to and from the dealership. Nor does it account for downtime waiting for the parts and being without the vehicle.

I understand the scrap price is roughly half the price of new. Why is the price so high you may ask? Platinum, Palladium and Rhodium. Platinum value is \$1113.05 per oz. Palladium is \$2387.50 per oz and Rhodium is \$19,260 per oz. Compare these metals to copper at \$0.23 per oz. For the thieves that stole from us, that is a \$7500 payday. There is a YouTube video that shows two thieves jacking up a car and stealing the converter in 60 seconds! This problem will not be fixed unless there are checks and balances within the used parts industry.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on SB 2242. We offer our support to this legislation and request the Senate Judiciary committee issue a Do Pass Recommendation. If you have any questions, I would be pleased to attempt to address them.