

North Dakota State's Attorneys' Association

January 28, 2023

To: Transportation Committee
Hon. Chairman Clemens
Hon. Vice-Chair Conley
Members of the Committee

RE: Senate Bill No. 2299

Chairman Clemens, Vice-Conley Karls, and Members of the Transportation Committee:

The North Dakota State's Attorneys' Association (NDSAA) is submitting this letter in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2299 and to urge you to issue a **DO PASS** on this bill.

In November of last year, Mandan reported a surge of thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles in the area. Earlier last year, five people were arrested in Minot for catalytic converter thefts going back to 2021. With these items being easy to steal in less than 5 or 10 minutes and then being sold for over \$150.00, this is a serious problem in North Dakota and across the country for people looking to make quick, untraceable money.

Taking the steps outlined in Senate Bill 2299 will, we believe, cut down on the number of catalytic converter thefts we are seeing as dealers will need to become licensed with the state, or face heavy bookkeeping requirements for their transactions. In addition, dealers who fail to comply with the new laws and the thieves alike, will be faced with more severe penalties, which have been proven to be a deterrent to crime.

We support the steps in Senate Bill 2299 to hold scrap dealers and thieves each accountable for any role they play in the continued theft and sale of catalytic converters in our state.

On behalf of the North Dakota State's Attorneys:



Roza Larson, President



Ashley L. Lies, Executive Director