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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Tina Davis *Tina M. Davis*

DATE: April 11, 2012 *Tina*

SUBJECT: Request for Co-sponsorship—Amending Act 113 of 2008, the Scrap Material Theft Prevention Act

In the near future I plan to introduce legislation that seeks to provide law enforcement officers greater ease in tracking stolen scrap materials. As you know, scrap metal theft is still a popular crime despite our best legislative efforts. In fact, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, some copper thieves are so organized that some profit roughly \$20,000 per month—costing homeowners, communications companies and transportation systems millions of dollars in damage each year.

While we have strong penalties for the criminals who are caught, many thieves are still finding ways around the law. Currently, scrap metal dealers are only required to record transactions for scrap metal that is valued at \$100 or more. In essence, scrap metal thieves can trade stolen scrap material valued at just under the minimum recording requirement and distribute it over several locations to “cash-in” on the stolen property. Moreover, when transactions are finalized in cash, such thieves can get away completely undetected. Without stronger record-keeping on behalf of dealers, many law enforcement officials have trouble tracking suspect scrap metal transactions.

My legislation would amend Act 113 of 2008, the Scrap Material Theft Prevention Act, to require scrap metal dealers and recycling processors to record scrap metal transactions of any value. Additionally, my legislation would prevent dealers from entertaining cash transactions when purchasing scrap metal from a seller. These measures would help our law enforcement officers by allowing for better tracking of stolen scrap material.

If you wish to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Debbie Brady at 717-783-4903, or email dbrady@pahouse.net.