January 29, 2021

Dear President Masterson, Speaker Ryckman, Chair Warren and Chair Patton:

Pursuant to K.S.A. 50-6,109a(h), please accept this letter as my report on the implementation, administration and enforcement of the provisions of the Scrap Metal Theft Reduction Act (SMTRA).

On July 1, 2020, several provisions of the SMTRA that had either been unfunded or suspended by legislative action subsequent to the law’s enactment in 2015 entered into effect. Most notably, this included the requirement for scrap metal dealers, as defined by the act, to register with the attorney general’s office in order to purchase regulated scrap metal, and to collect information about certain scrap metal transactions and submit certain portions of that information collected to a database managed by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

As of December 31, 2020, 52 scrap metal dealers at 66 locations had completed the registration requirements with the attorney general’s office. Upon completing those requirements, the attorney general’s office provides the scrap metal dealer’s information to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to create an account that allows the dealer to submit the required transactional information to the database.

During the first six months the database was in operation, 7,605 transactions had been submitted to the database. In addition, we can report that law enforcement agencies have begun using the transactional database as an investigative tool, as 365 inquiries have been made by law enforcement officers to the database.

Sincerely,

Derek Schmidt
Kansas Attorney General