



March 8, 2021

Minnesota House of Representatives
House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee

Subject: Support Statement – House Files 330 & 1589

Dear Committee Members:

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) is a national, not-for-profit organization supported by approximately 1,200 property and casualty insurance companies including many who write business in Minnesota. Working with our member companies and law enforcement, we investigate organized criminal conspiracies dealing with insurance fraud and vehicle crime.

We write in support of House Files 330 & 1589 which would penalize those who illegally obtain a catalytic converter and tightens oversight requirements for scrap dealers and vehicle repair shops.

As evidenced by this recent article below by CBS4, catalytic converter thefts are skyrocketing in Minnesota, especially in the Twin Cities with 150 reports of theft in St. Paul over a recent 6-week span. <https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2021/02/18/new-law-aims-to-curb-sales-of-stolen-catalytic-converters/>.

Catalytic converter theft is on the rise, in part due to the rise of prices associated with precious metals, including rhodium, palladium and platinum which are used in the construction of catalytic converters. The relative ease and speed in which a thief can remove a converter, coupled with the financial award a thief can reap selling the scrap metal is what drives thefts.

We urge the swift passage of these 2 bills to help crack down on catalytic converter theft.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at tlynch@nicb.org.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Lynch", is written over a horizontal line.

Tim Lynch, Senior Director of Government Affairs – National Insurance Crime Bureau