

Bill: 1st substitute SB 133 – Metal Purchase and Theft Amendments

Sponsor: Senator Todd Weiler

Floor Sponsor: Undeclared

UASD Position: Track with concern

This Bill concerns the purchase and theft of metal including catalytic converters.

Discussion: Senator Weiler opened his presentation by reassuring everyone that his goal wasn't to make the issue of catalytic converter theft worse. He presented the 1st substitute of the Bill, which was adopted by the Committee. The 1st substitute is a compromise to address concerns raised by law enforcement. The substitute creates a new searchable database specifically for the use of tracking metal theft. The sponsor believes this resolves some of the more contentious aspects of the original Bill. Mark Lewin, the President of Utah Metal Works, shared his perspective as part of the sponsor's presentation of the Bill. The Legislature passed a Bill three years ago that requires businesses and pawn shops to report stolen catalytic converters. Mr. Lewin said that he doesn't believe that the Bill has been very effective in preventing catalytic converter theft and that it has created a lot of work for businesses that buy metals, including catalytic converters. He explained that the reporting process often felt like a waste of time because businesses didn't always have the necessary details to "know what they were looking for". Mr. Lewin also noted his belief that the decrease in catalytic converter theft wasn't due to the previous legislation, but rather to increased collaboration between businesses and law enforcement.

Senator Musselman asked Mr. Lewin to clarify what he meant by not knowing what they were looking for. Mr. Lewin explained that businesses need better information to help narrow down and simplify the reporting process for stolen metals and catalytic converters. Senator Weiler explained that the substitute Bill aims to strike a balance by allowing small metal businesses to remain profitable while giving law enforcement better tools to prevent catalytic converter theft. There was no discussion from the public or further discussion on the Bill.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 133 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.