

May 29, 2013

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Klobuchar and Graham:

We write in strong support of S. 394, the Metal Theft Prevention Act of 2013, which you introduced on February 27, 2013.

Metal theft is a persistent problem that plagues businesses in a wide array of industries, threatens public safety, and causes great harm to communications, utility, and transportation infrastructure. Although the incidence of metal theft tends to be greater during periods of high commodity prices for copper and other metals, it is a problem that never disappears.

Construction sites, foreclosed homes, telecommunications infrastructure, retail establishments, and utilities are common targets as thieves seek to steal copper communications lines, electrical wiring, air conditioning units, and countless other sources of metal that they can then sell to scrap yards. In addition to the financial costs, metal theft has endangered lives and posed serious threats to public safety. For example, by stealing metal from telecommunications lines, thieves have cut off communities from access to emergency 911 services, and by stealing wiring from streetlights and electrical substations, they have left highways and communities dark.

Most states have enacted laws specifically addressing metal theft, but it is important that federal law and the federal government complement the efforts of state and local authorities. We are pleased to see the multi-faceted approach of your legislation and believe it would decrease the prevalence of metal theft, thereby protecting critical infrastructure, promoting public safety, and saving money and valuable resources across the economy.

Sincerely,

Air Conditioning Contractors of America
American Public Power Association (APPA)
American Supply Association
Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.
CenturyLink
Edison Electric Institute
Heating, Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International (HARDI)
The Home Depot
International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)
The Independent Telephone and Telecommunications Alliance (ITTA)
Lowe's Companies, Inc.
Major Cities Chiefs Association
Major County Sheriffs' Association
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Police Organizations
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Retail Federation
National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association, Inc. (SMACNA)
United States Telecom Association
Windstream Corporation
XO Communications