



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA
The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920

May 23, 2008

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor
State of Florida
PL 05, The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

On behalf of Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) and our 10,000 members, I am writing to you in support of HB 105 by Rep. Baxter Troutman (R-Winter Haven). This legislation addresses a problem that many of our members face every day – copper and secondary metal theft. This crime affects a variety of industries including construction, utilities, agriculture, landscaping, and retailers, just to name a few. Our members are seeing this metal theft epidemic all across Florida and it is hitting residents as well as businesses. Due to the increasing worldwide demand for metals, more and more criminals are stealing copper wiring from construction sites, digging up underground telecommunication wires, cutting utility wires and even stealing beer kegs.

This public safety legislation aims to crack down on theft by requiring secondary metal dealers to keep detailed records that we feel will help deter thieves from bringing stolen items to a legitimate secondary metal dealers. Those unscrupulous metal dealers who do not provide the required information and receive stolen property will face stronger penalties.

AIF and its members respectfully request that you sign HB 105, thereby ensuring that criminals will think twice before endangering the public safety and causing costly damage to businesses and residents across Florida.

Sincerely,

Barney T. Bishop III
President & Chief Executive Officer