

Good Afternoon Committee Members:

My name is Licia Wack and my husband is Andy Hutt, we have owned an Enviro-Depot in Greenwood for last 14 ½ years and it does not purchase metals. We loved the business and recycling. Last year, we bought another Enviro-Depot in New Minas from Frieda & Gerd Burger who were in the industry forever and were retiring. We invested our life savings plus we have a huge mortgage and it does buy metals. We need the metal sales of this business to make the Enviro-Depot work because of the high value of real estate in New Minas. Our son, Michael who is here today is the operating manager in New Minas and my husband couldn't be here as he is managing the depots today.

We are community-minded businesses. For myself, in addition to the being secretary for the Eastern Recyclers Association, I belong to two local chambers of commerce, I was twice elected Fire Commissioner for the Aylesford Fire Dept. until I moved from the area and at the depot we collect for over 60 charities. Others do the same in their community; besides being employers, we are community members and sponsors.

After buying this business, in July of last year, suddenly our family is being faced with a \$50,000 fine if we or a staff member make a mistake. \$50,000, we're a small family business with 12 employees between the two depots. The person who stole the item will get what...probation? I am sorry, but the punishment does not fit the crime. It is very lopsided to the point of being and I have to be frank and say insulting. The fine, paints our businesses very unfairly to the public as being the villains.

Nobody is happy with these copper thefts and the environmental damage it is causing. Personally, I would like to see the NDP gov't to fund a hot-line similar to CARI's in Ontario, updated by the RCMP. I believe this would be more cost effective and productive not only to curb thefts as thieves become aware of a hot line, but get also get convictions on the real thieves, when they show up with a key word being "**now**" known stolen item.

I feel comfortable in saying; we are all for a system that curbs theft in the first place, this legislation though is not going to do it at all IMO. Rather than legislation, I believe that the industries working together ie NSP, Insurance industry, ERA, CARI & the RCMP would have a tremendous impact.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Licia Wack