



**COUNTY OF  
SAN BERNARDINO**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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May 19, 2008

The Honorable Tom Berryhill  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4116  
Sacramento, CA 94814

**RE: AB 844 (Berryhill) – As Amended April 30, 2008 - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Berryhill:

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors supports AB 844. This bill prohibits junk dealers or recyclers from providing payment for nonferrous material unless the payment is made by check, where the check is mailed to the seller or is provided no earlier than 3 days after the date of sale, and the dealer or recycler obtains certain identifying information and a photograph of the nonferrous material to be retained by the dealer or recycler for a certain period of time.

Additionally, this legislation includes a section that will make clear the rights of local governments to adopt and maintain local ordinances on top of state law. Metal theft is occurring everywhere, and while the results are always devastating, the effects vary in different parts of the state. Farmers are at risk of losing entire crops when their pumps are vandalized. Schools and industrial buildings are left without air conditioning and plumbing in urban areas. It is important that local governments are able to address this crime as it affects their areas.

Metal theft is a detestable practice that threatens the safety and security of residents throughout California. In San Bernardino County alone, reports of copper, aluminum and bronze wiring, piping and materials being stolen from vacant and foreclosed homes as well as from fire hydrants in neighborhoods with large numbers of vacant/foreclosed homes have risen dramatically as the foreclosure crisis deepens. Additionally, County law enforcement has reported arresting offenders for breaking into foreclosed/vacant properties multiple times within a week of a previous arrest. For these reasons, the San Bernardino County the Board of Supervisors supports AB 844. The Board thanks you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

**PAUL BIANE**  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

*The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.*