

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Supervisor Buster

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
June 24, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Resolution 2008-321 in Support of Assembly Bill 844 (Berryhill) as it Relates to  
Junk Dealers and Metal Theft

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2008-321 a resolution in support of Assembly Bill 844 Berryhill to amend the Business and Professions Code as it relates to junk dealers and metal theft.
2. Send the Resolution to Assembly member Berryhill showing our support of AB 844, as currently amended.

**BACKGROUND:** Metal theft throughout Riverside County, the State of California, and the nation continues to be a significant problem that has affected the farming community, utilities and the construction industry. Assembly Bill 844 introduced by Assembly member Tom Berryhill from Modesto, CA, provides the framework at the state level that provides local law enforcement the necessary tools to apprehend criminals who steal non-ferrous metals such as aluminum, brass and copper. This bill will also enable local law enforcement to regulate junk dealers and the metal recycling industry and ensure recordkeeping is properly managed, accurate information detailing the material being sold, identification of the seller is collected for each transaction and transactions are paid by check after a three-day holding period.

Significant time and resources have been spent in an attempt to change and weaken this important legislation by the metal recycling industry. Most recently, I spent a day in Sacramento advocating for strong legislation related to metal theft with Assembly member Berryhill, Senator Calderon and Senator Perata and gave testimony before the Senate Business Professions and Economic Development Committee, chaired by Senator Ridley-Thomas in support of AB 844. Our District Attorney, County Sheriff, California State Sheriffs' Association, our local farm bureau and the California State Farm Bureau Federation along with numerous public utilities and other allied local agencies also support AB 844. AB 844 is still subject to modification as it goes to the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Floor for a final vote before it goes to the Governor for signature. AB 844, as currently amended is our best hope for legislation that can have a positive impact on metal theft crime.

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Bob Buster, Supervisor, 1st District

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-321

A RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN SUPPORT  
OF ASSEMBLY BILL 844, BERRYHILL, AN ACT TO AMEND THE BUSINESS AND  
PROFESSIONS CODE, RELATED TO JUNK DEALERS

WHEREAS, Metal theft throughout Riverside County, the State of California, and the nation continues to be a significant problem that has affected the farming community, utilities and the construction industry;

WHEREAS, In some cases, metal theft has cause regional power outages when highly energized power service centers have been vandalized;

WHEREAS, county owned and operated municipal facilities have not been exempt from metal theft, as several departments including the county library have been victimized;

WHEREAS, perpetrators of these crimes have been able to avoid prosecution because they work below the regulatory threshold;

WHEREAS, public health and safety were compromised when a scrap metal vandal was killed in his attempt to steal grounding wire from a energized electrical power station causing a power outage, that last for several hours, in numerous cities and unincorporated portions of Riverside County;

WHEREAS, strict rules and regulations are necessary to thwart this ever-increasing crime and Assembly Bill 844, as currently amended is bipartisan legislation that will help law enforcement agencies to effectively curtail the ability of vandals who profit from this crime.