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# Commodity Markets & Prices/Impacts on State Economies and the Environment: Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Presentation to the National Lt. Governors Association Meeting

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Ms. Robin Wiener, President, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (“ISRI”), undertook a presentation at the National Lieutenant Governor’s Association Federal-State Meeting titled:

*Commodities Markets & Prices: Impacts on State Economies & the Environment (“Presentation”)*

The meeting was held March 16th in Washington, D.C.

ISRI (trademarked @ISRI) is a national trade association whose members include 1,300 companies that collect, manufacture, broker, consume, transport, and process various types of recyclables such as ferrous and non-ferrous metals, paper, plastics, tire/rubber, textiles and electronics.

The National Lieutenant Governors Association had previously adopted a resolution supporting the concept that recyclables are not waste.

ISRI was asked to be a part of a panel discussion at the meeting designed to convey the impacts of commodity markets on the state economies.

The overall focus of the *Presentation* was the economic impact of the scrap recycling industry. For example, Ms. Wiener noted that jobs supported by the United States scrap recycling industry in 2015 totaled:

- Direct 149,010
- Supplier 171,350
- Induced 151,227

The source of these statistics is: “*Economic Impact Study U.S.-Based Scrap Recycling Industry*,” John Dunham and Associates, 2015.

The study also concluded that the total economic impact of the recycling industry was \$105.8 billion with 11.2 billion in federal, state and local taxes paid.

The *Presentation* noted that between 30 and 40% of all scrap processed in the United States is exported every year. Total exported tons per year is 40 million metric with a value of \$21 billion. These numbers are produced by the more than 8000 recycling facilities operating in the United States.

As to state implications, the inter-relationship with commodity markets, recycling incentives and sustainable solutions was addressed. Ms. Wiener noted that energy saved using recycled materials has been determined to be:

- 95% for aluminum
- 88% for plastic
- 60% for steel
- 75% for copper
- 60% for paper
- 34% for glass

Ms. Wiener addressed the future noting:

- “Hope for upturn in 2017: Hints at rising commodity prices”
- Relevance of political/government factors
- Heightened uncertainty about future policy changes and unintended consequences of protectionist measures

[A copy of \*Presentation\* can be downloaded here.](#)