

June 15, 2023

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Director Wray,

I write to follow up on my May letter regarding the rise of copper thefts in the United States. As previously mentioned, my district is facing a significant rise in copper wire theft. San Joaquin County appears to be the epicenter of this criminal activity, with officials saying we now lead the nation in reported copper wire thefts.

At the same time, I have seen our local law enforcement in San Joaquin County step up to the challenge of combating these crimes. In six weeks, local law enforcement in my district have arrested multiple individuals who were in possession of stolen wires and are thought to be connected with these crimes.

This issue is not isolated to my district. Individuals in Pennsylvania were arrested just last week in connection to the theft of nearly \$15,000 of copper wire. Given the potential impact these crimes can have on emergency services, law enforcement, businesses, and service companies, we have to address this issue through an all-of-government approach. That is why I am drafting legislation to crack down on copper theft by holding groups that buy stolen copper accountable, increasing copper theft surveillance and prevention, and further studying the impact of copper theft on critical community services.

I look forward to working with you to ensure my bill will address this issue once and for all. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Josh Harder
Member of Congress