



March 17, 2009

Honorable Joel Anderson, Member
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2130
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Anderson:

The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 3,200 rank and file deputy sheriffs, sheriffs, deputy probation officers, law enforcement investigators and counselors, coroners and bailiffs – the entire law enforcement team in Riverside County - is pleased to support your bill, AB 509

Our organization in the last ten or more years has supported several changes in law due to circumstances that involve drivers who make the wrong choice and flee from a law enforcement officer. As the incidents have become more daring and dramatic, they have resulted in the need for more encompassing response.

AB 509 maintains present vehicle code language regarding those drivers who flee or attempt to elude a pursuing peace officer and who show complete disregard for safety involving their own vehicle and lives, but who additionally show complete disregard for other persons and property that could incidentally be caught off-guard and hurt from these actions. Under AB 509 new language is added to the code related to penalties, time to be served, and fines paid for an incident of this nature, as the bill singles out and addresses the issue of harm and/or loss of property that comes as a result of a "fleeing officer" pursuit. We believe this is a thoughtful addition to the Vehicle Code and support this measure.

Very truly yours,

Pat McNamara
President

Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate