



August 20, 2010

Honorable Jerry Hill, Member
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4146
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 909 – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Hill:

The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 3,200 rank and file deputy sheriffs, deputy probation officers, law enforcement investigators and counselors, coroners and bailiffs – the entire law enforcement team in Riverside County - opposes your bill, AB 909.

AB 909 reduces the current fine for running a red light and for making illegal right turns by two-thirds, and in so doing, undermines the seriousness of the offense.

During 2005, some 800 people were killed, and an estimated 165,000 were injured in crashes that involved red light running. The victims of red light runners are too often pedestrians – children, the elderly, and the disabled – as well as bicyclists. This bill is a step in the wrong direction if this class of vulnerable individuals is to be protected. Red light cameras are installed at our most problematic intersections, so this will be especially damaging to the behavior compliance we are seeking at those high incident intersections. To send the message that “California stops” are less important at these intersections is not good public safety!

We join with other law enforcement groups throughout the state in opposing this bill.

Very truly yours,

Pat McNamara
President

Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: RSA Board
Members/Consultants - Assembly Transportation Committee

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