



# California POLICE CHIEFS Association Inc.

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June 15, 2010

Honorable Jerry Hill  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Hill:

The California Police Chiefs Association regrets that they must oppose AB 909, which repeals the prohibitions against “rolling stops” prior to a driver making a right turn on a red light or a left turn from one one-way street to another. These provisions would apply to those situations where the violation is captured on a photo-enforcement camera. The unintended consequence of this legislation will be to send a message that this behavior is not as important as violating a red light, when it is even more important to those least protected in an intersection; pedestrians and bicyclists.

Time and again, we have seen that compliance is tied to the importance of enforcement and fines associated with traffic violations, and we believe that an increase in right turn violations will ultimately lead to a corresponding increase in accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclists. We have seen changes in behavior for both driving while impaired and driving without a seat belt once we have increased fines and enforcement, and believe we can do the same with “California Stops.”

We do not believe that legislation that de-emphasizes the importance of so-called “California Stops” represents good policy, nor good traffic safety practice. In fact, “California Stops” place pedestrians and bicyclists in real danger and AB 909 sends the wrong message and history shows that it could inevitably lead to an increase in “California Stops,” and that is the primary reason we are opposing this legislation

Additionally, it is important to remember that not all photo enforced intersections capture right turns on red lights at all. Right turns on red lights are captured at those intersections where there has been a past history of violations and accidents attributable to those violations. We must therefore oppose this bill.

Although we must oppose this bill, I want to reiterate our interest in working collaboratively with you to develop technology friendly standards for photo-enforcement. We share your view that photo-enforcement should be safety-based and not revenue based, and are very interested in working with you in a collaborative manner to develop sound legislation that will assure safety-based photo-enforcement.

Assembly member Jerry Hill  
June 15, 2010  
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Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan E. Manheimer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Susan E. Manheimer  
President

CC: Chief Don Mattei, Belmont, President, San Mateo County Chiefs Association