



SHERIFF

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April 11, 2013

The Honorable Roger Dickinson
Member California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-007

Subject: Opposition to AB 169

Dear Assemblymember Dickinson:

As the Sheriff of Riverside County, I am writing you to express my opposition to AB 169. This bill would remove the peace officer exemption to the current prohibition against selling firearms not listed on the California Department of Justice – Roster of Handguns Certified for Sale. The bill would also remove the current exemption for relic or curio handguns.

The DOJ Roster “safe guns” is really a misnomer and has done little to improve the safety of firearms in California. In fact, it has excluded a number of high quality – and safe – firearms from being sold in this state simply because the firearms were not submitted for testing by the manufacturer.

Current law unfairly prohibits licensed and registered California and Federal firearms dealers from legally reselling certain used firearms, which the State of California considers arbitrarily “unsafe.” Due to current rules and regulations, many law-abiding citizens who wish to sell or rid themselves of their old or unneeded firearms frequently have considerable difficulty because licensed and registered dealers are unwilling to take possession of these firearms, since they are unable to resell them in CA.

I oppose this bill because it paints a very broad brush in order to solve a very isolated and limited problem of peace officer misuse. Furthermore, that isolated problem is not without a solution, as demonstrated by the recent intervention of the federal prosecutors.

It is also extremely common for officers to purchase a handgun with which they are comfortable as opposed to one issued by their department. Your bill could prohibit some of these necessary law enforcement “tools of trade” from being passed on to family members upon the officer’s death.

This bill has also been expanded to prohibit the transfer of relic and curio handguns to non-exempt persons. This particular expansion is unnecessary. These types of handguns are mostly used as collectables by law-abiding citizens and are rarely desired or used by criminals. This portion of the bill would unfairly target these law-abiding citizens.

For these reasons, I must oppose AB 169. Any questions, I can be reached at (951) 955-0147.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Stan Sniff, Riverside County

CC: California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA)
Riverside County Legislative Representatives

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stan Sniff', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Stan Sniff, Sheriff
Riverside County Sheriff's Department