



SHERIFF

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May 23, 2013

The Honorable Kevin De Leon
Member California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Opposition to SB 53

Dear Senator De Leon:

As the Sheriff of Riverside County, I am opposed to SB 53. This bill would implement an ammunition purchase permit system, reinstate the ammunition purchase restrictions imposed by AB 962 in 2009, and limit the sales of ammunition to California Department of Justice approved vendors.

I oppose this law because it could negatively affect the ability of law abiding citizens to obtain ammunition for the firearms which they legally possess. This law will place overly restrictive and costly regulations on the sellers and buyers of ammunition, seriously limiting the ability of many sports enthusiasts to obtain ammunition for their sporting events, shooting exhibitions, or gun shows. This bill could negatively affect the ability of volunteer instructors for self-defense programs, or youth organizations like the Boy Scouts, to obtain enough ammunition for their programs.

There are some who believe these proposed restrictions will stop the sale of ammunition to criminals. It has been my experience that criminals routinely find ways to circumvent the law. Whether the criminals utilize a false identity to purchase ammunition, persuade a person without a criminal record to purchase the ammunition for them, steal it, or purchase the ammunition from out of state, most criminals will not be deterred. It is the honest, law abiding citizens who will be hurt under these new restrictions.

For these reasons, I must oppose SB 53, and this is but another indirect way to circumvent the Second Amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Sniff".

Sheriff Stan Sniff, Riverside County

CC: Senator Mark Leno
Senator Darrell Steinberg
Senator Leland Yee
Assemblymember Nancy Skinner
Assemblymember Philip Ting
Riverside County Legislative Representatives
California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA)