



SHERIFF

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The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 23, 2013

Subject: Assembly Bill 711 – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Brown:

As Sheriff of Riverside County, I serve our 4th largest California county with a population at nearly 2.3 million residents. I respectfully ask that you veto AB 711 that bans traditional jacketed lead hunting ammunition throughout our entire State.

The groups that supported this are largely opposed to all hunting. Although I am personally not a hunter, I believe this bill is poor public policy and bad law and attempts to solely circumvent our Fish & Game Commission – that Commission already has the power to restrict metallic lead hunting ammunition in any specific areas of the State where evidence of lead poisoning has or will occur through actual science, not simply through legislative fiat shaped by opinion. California would be the first State in the Union to impose this restriction in wholesale fashion, shaped by Legislators' opinion and prejudices, rarely than through scientific evidence as it more properly should be – that should give us pause alone in acting precipitously.

In addition, various federal and state health department studies have concluded that lead ammunition is NOT a human health risk, and a recently released peer reviewed study out of Sweden indicates that there is no human health risk to people who consume wild game harvested with lead ammunition. And despite 99% hunter compliance, the AB 821 lead ammunition ban has failed to reduce lead poisoning in condors. Moreover, AB 711 fails to address the alternative sources of lead in the environment that are poisoning condors and other wildlife. Much more work needs to be done here before precipitous action by legislative fiat.

Moreover, for many of us who are legitimate and responsible firearm's owners and shooting sports enthusiasts, this precipitous bill gives credence to the general sense that this simply an interim step in an outright ban on all lead-based ammunition for both long guns and handguns in California, essentially outlawing firearms by severely restricting ammunition availability or pricing it out of existence except for the elite or very rich. And that has a profound impact upon all law enforcement officers within the State California for a variety of reasons.

I respectfully ask that you consider all of these aspects of that proposed bill, and that you subsequently veto AB 711. This bill is not good public policy for the citizens of Riverside County. If there are any questions, I can be reached at (951) 955-0147 or ssniff@riversidesheriff.org.

Sincerely,

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

Sheriff Stan Sniff, Riverside County

cc: California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA)