



SHERIFF

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June 30, 2014

The Honorable Kevin De Leon
Member California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Oppose SB 53 (Ammunition Purchase Permits, 2014)

Dear Senator De Leon,

I have served as Sheriff of Riverside County since 2007, serving our 2.3 million residents in California's 4th largest county. Although I opposed this legislation in its earlier form last year, I *continue to oppose SB 53 in its new and redrafted June 2014 version.*

Among other concerns, this proposed legislation causes the following:

- 1) requires state "**permits and/or licenses**" (and resulting new "**fees**" that will vary/increase over time) by our citizens in order to purchase ammunition as a consumer, and
- 2) requires state "**permits / licenses**" to "sell" ammunition as a vendor, and
- 3) requires only face-to-face sales of ammunition, and bans mail-order or internet purchases of ammunition, and
- 4) creates another mandated "licensing system" that requires fingerprints and other unnecessary personal information to be kept "on file" locally and by the state, potentially creating unintended victims of crime through burglary, theft or robbery.

SB 53 tries to reinstate provisions of earlier enacted California law that has been previously struck down by the courts as "**unconstitutionally vague**", for not fully understanding the similarities in handgun and rifle ammunition. Many sports and competitive shooters routinely use large quantities of ammunition obtained through the most market-competitive and cost-effective means – through mail order & internet – in this era of just-in-time distribution for bulk-order price points. And an aging widow should not have to delay in obtaining an "ammunition purchase permit" to obtain needed ammunition in an emergency for home defense.

It is my feeling that this legislation is merely another way to decrease or eventually cut off legitimate firearms use or ownership completely to millions of our law-abiding citizens in California and infringes upon our Second Amendment, and in a state that is already one of the most heavily firearms-regulated in our nation.

The net effect is zero in aiding our law enforcement community and public safety with this bill, and the net impact of this bill is simply to put more of our state's law-abiding citizens at direct personal risk. This is made even worse by the creation of AB 109 Realignment, and the unwillingness since 2011 of the Legislature to correct the well-documented original errors of that legislation, all adding to the ongoing public safety concerns of all of our communities across this state.

Although I certainly commend you for your public service to our communities, I must oppose **SB 53** and recommend that you abandon it for the reasons stated.

Sincerely,

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

Stan Sniff
Riverside County Sheriff

CC: Riverside County Legislative Representatives