



CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION



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Executive Director

February 17, 2023

Senator Lena A. Gonzalez
Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation
State Capitol, Room 405
Sacramento, CA 95814

CC: Senators Roger W. Niello, Benjamin Allen, Bob Archuleta, Josh Becker, Catherine Blakespear, Dave Cortese, Brian Dahle, Bill Dodd, Monique Limón, Mike McGuire, Josh Newman, Janet Nguyen, Kelly Seyarto, Thomas J. Umberg, and Aisha Wahab, and Chief Consultant Randy Chinn

RE: Senate Bill 55 - Notice of Support, As Introduced 12/6/22

Dear Senator Gonzalez,

The California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) writes to express our support of Senate Bill 55, which prohibits dealers and retailers from selling new vehicles with catalytic converters unless the converter has been engraved or etched with a vehicle identification number (VIN). We applaud Senator Umberg for his leadership in introducing this bill, as catalytic converter theft is a serious crime that is of great concern to many of our member cities. Our organization was supportive of Senator Umberg and Senator Portantino's previous iteration of this bill last year, SB 986, and we will continue to support cracking down on catalytic converter theft in 2023.

Today catalytic converters are not often engraved with a VIN, and as a result, the part is frequently stolen and resold. By requiring VINs on catalytic converters, SB 55 creates a simple solution to the ongoing theft, ensuring accountability and transparency in regards to where the part came from. Further, the VINs will allow law enforcement to more easily establish if a catalytic converter was stolen, even if the vehicle was already broken down to just its parts. In its current form SB 55 specifically states that selling catalytic converters without a VIN would be punishable as an infraction. Given the high frequency of catalytic converter theft, our organization strongly supports imposing this penalty.

CCCA represents over 85 cities throughout California. For more than 65 years, CCCA's mission has been to advance the benefits of the contracting model and strengthen local control. With collaborative governance as a focal point, CCCA has advanced its mission through education, advocacy, networking, and legislative access to protect and enhance the quality of life for more than 7.5 million residents. As a matter of policy, our organization supports and defends the rights of cities on policy issues pertinent to them, which include, but are not limited to public safety and housing. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our support of SB 55.

Yours in service,

Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director