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March 3, 2010

Senator Defronzo, Representative Guerrero, Ranking Members Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and members of the distinguished Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to support Raised Senate Bill 345, An Act Authorizing Municipalities to Conduct a Pilot Program for the Use of Automated Traffic Control Signal Enforcement Devices at certain intersections.

With many municipalities not having full staffing levels of police officers on their rosters, this bill will provide an enforcement resource not currently available, which would allow the police to devote time to other community priorities.

A 2009 Public Opinion Strategies nationwide poll revealed that 69% favor red light cameras, with 45% of those respondents strongly supporting it. 29% opposed it with 18% strongly opposed.

Albuquerque, NM; Arlington VA; Atlanta GA; Baltimore MD; Chicago, IL; Columbus, OH; Denver, CO; Houston, TX; Los Angeles, CA; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Providence, RI; Washington, DC are just a few of the over 400 cities and towns across the US that have implemented red traffic cameras. The results have shown a 87%-100% decline in red light violations at intersections.

There are opponents of red light cameras who are saying that municipalities need to adjust the yellow light timing, and the problem solves itself. But studies have shown that extending the yellow light timing produced only a 36% decline in the odds of a red light violation, compared to the red light cameras reduction of 96%.

There is a myth that cities will target neighborhoods with these cameras which is false. Under this bill municipalities will need to submit a plan to the Department of Public Safety, which the municipality will need to show why the cameras should go at a certain intersections. The cameras will be placed only where there is a proven crash history, major public safety concerns, and or proven non-compliance with the traffic signals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, and urge your support of Raised Senate Bill 345.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hector Robles".

Hector Robles