



Personal Insurance Federation of California

California's Personal Lines Trade Association

REPRESENTING THE LEADING AUTOMOBILE AND HOMEOWNERS INSURERS

State Farm • Farmers • 21st Century Insurance Group • SAFECO • Progressive

MEMORANDUM

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Date: April 23, 2003

To: The Honorable John Dutra, Chair,
Members, Assembly Transportation Committee

From: Dan C. Dunmoyer, President,
G. Diane Colborn, Vice President of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Michael A. Gunning, Senior Legislative Advocate

Re: AB 1511 (Benoit): Vehicle: Unlawful Activities
Assembly Transportation Committee Hearing: April 28, 2003
PIFIC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing insurers who write nearly 35% of the personal lines insurance policies in California, including State Farm, Farmers, SAFECO, 21st Century Insurance Group, and Progressive Insurance Company, **supports AB 1511** by Assemblyman Benoit. This bill would prohibit a driver from engaging in non-driving activity that interferes with the safe operation of a vehicle.

PIFIC and its member companies have a long history of support for sound public safety measures that serve to reduce injuries and enhance public safety. AB 1511 is such a measure. We believe that it will help to save lives, reduce serious injuries, and diminish other associated human and economic costs affiliated with unsafe driving.

Based on the California Highway Patrol's November 2002 report, "*Driver Distractions and Inattention Data Summary*", there are a number of distractions listed that can lead to accidents. Among the listed distractions were cell phones, children, electronic equipment, animals, radio/CDs, personal hygiene, smoking, reading, eating, and other factors. The CHP study concluded that driver distraction is the issue, not any particular activity. We believe that AB 1511 addresses all the factors listed by the CHP and is the best solution to the problem of driver distractions.

For all these reasons, **PIFIC supports AB 1511** and urges an "aye" vote on the bill when it is heard in committee. Thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions regarding PIFIC position, please do not hesitate to contact Michael A. Gunning at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Honorable John Benoit, Author
Ann Richardson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office
Joseph Furtado, Assembly Transportation Committee
Cory Salzillo, Assembly Republican Caucus