



April 9, 2018

Honorable Assemblyman Jim L. Frazier
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
1020 N Street, Room 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 2761 (Obernolte) Inoperative Traffic Signals – Oppose

Dear Assembly Member Frazier:

On behalf of all the insurance trade organizations listed above, we are writing to express our opposition to AB 2761, a bill that would fundamentally alter the traffic rules in California. The bill would allow a driver to bypass a red light, "within a reasonable period of time," if the driver felt the light was broken or did not change fast enough. In our minds, allowing individual drivers to make determinations of when it is "safe" to violate traffic lights is fundamentally bad for highway safety and will lead to increased accidents and fatalities.

Having uniform laws and traffic rules helps promote safety and predictability on our roadways. The author claims that under some conditions traffic-actuated signals may fail to detect vehicles, motorcycles, or bicyclists. However, current law, Vehicle Code Section 21800, already directs drivers to treat the light as a stop sign, if the light fails to recognize a driver or is truly broken. AB 2761 takes a clear liability situation and makes it murky.

AB 2761 would cause disruption on our roadways that would not only be detrimental to safety, it would also insert ambiguity into the very clear liability principles that insurers rely on for assessing fault when accidents occur at intersections. We, therefore, urge your "no" vote on AB 2761.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of the following: Armand Feliciano, PCI Vice President (916-205-2519 / armand.feliciano@acinet.org); Michael Gunning, PIFC Vice President (916-442-6646 / mgunning@pifc.org); Shari McHugh, PADIC, (916-769-4872 / smchugh@mchughgr.com); Christian Rataj, Senior Regional Vice President (303-907-00587 / crataj@namic.org); and Katie Pettibone, AIA Vice President, (916-402-1678 / kpettibone@aiadc.org).

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Transportation Committee
Honorable Jay Obernolte, Member, California State Assembly
David Sforza, Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office
Daniel Ballon, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus