



STATE FARM
FARMERS
21ST CENTURY
SAFECO
PROGRESSIVE
NAMIC

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 21, 2006

To: The Honorable Mark Leno, Chair
Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, Vice President & General Counsel
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President
Michael A. Paiva, Senior Legislative Advocate

Re: AB 2599 (Benoit) Motor Vehicle Theft
Assembly Public Safety Committee – April 25, 2006
As Amended March 30, 2006

PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing insurers who write 44% of the auto insurance sold in the state, including Farmers, 21st Century, Safeco, Progressive, State Farm and NAMIC, supports AB 2840 by Assemblymembers Benoit, Canciamilla, La Malfa, Parra and Wolk.

PIFC and its member companies have a long history of support for sound public safety measures that serve to reduce injuries and enhance public safety. Because of our interest in vehicle theft issues, we want to express our strong support for AB 2599.

Through our members' association with the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) we are vigilant of the efforts of organized criminal conspiracies dealing with vehicle theft and insurance fraud. NICB on an annual basis publishes its "Hot Spots" media campaign which ranks cities in terms of vehicle theft. On a consistent basis, California has numerous cities ranking in the top ten. As a result, the economic losses to California consumers are staggering.

AB 2599 would combat the growing crime of motor vehicle theft by increasing penalties for first-time and repeat offenders. The bill would impose real penalties on vehicle thieves, especially juvenile offenders, by granting courts authority to suspend the license of a convicted vehicle thief for a one-year time period. By toughening penalties for would-be vehicle thieves, AB 2599 sends a strong message that California does not tolerate the unlawful taking of citizens' property.

For the foregoing reasons, PIFC supports AB 2840 and urges your "yes" vote. If you have any questions regarding PIFC's support, please contact Michael Gunning at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Honorable John Benoit, Author
Heather Hopkins, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Gary Olson, Assembly Republican Caucus
Cynthia Bryant, Deputy Legislative Secretary for the Governor
Kathleen Webb, Office of the Insurance Advisor

PERSONAL INSURANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA

980 Ninth Street Suite 2030 Sacramento California 95814
T (916) 442 6646 F (916) 446 9548 E pifc@pifc.org www.pifc.org