



# 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

STAFF September 4, 2003

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Honorable Gray Davis, Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol, Governor's Office  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Veto Request on SB 515 (Kuehl)**

Dear Governor Davis:

The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing insurers who sell 35% of the personal lines insurance in California, including State Farm, Farmers, SAFECO, 21st Century, and Progressive Insurance, opposes SB 515 (Kuehl) and respectfully requests your veto of this legislation. SB 515 would take away from businesses a tool currently available for challenging lawsuits designed to chill the exercise of free speech.

SB 515 amends the Anti-SLAPP suit statute enacted in 1992 and authored by then-Senator Bill Lockyer. The statute allows a defendant, who is the target of a lawsuit attacking their exercise of free speech, to bring a special motion for early dismissal of the suit. SB 515 would amend this law to make such motions inapplicable to any case brought against a person engaged in the business of selling or leasing goods or services. The effect of SB 515 is to eliminate the Anti-SLAPP suit motion as a tool for dismissing frivolous or malicious lawsuits which are aimed at intimidating a business from exercising its free speech right. Businesses are frequently the target of lawsuits designed to harass or coerce a business into settling for nuisance value, or to stop a legitimate business activity. There is no good public policy reason why business defendants should be excluded from utilizing the Anti-SLAPP suit statute to dismiss unmeritorious lawsuits rather than being coerced into settling or incurring unnecessary litigation costs simply for exercising their constitutional rights.

For all these reasons, **we urge your veto of SB 515**. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Colborn at (916) 442-6646.

Sincerely,

Dan C. Dunmoyer  
President

G. Diane Colborn  
Vice President of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs

cc: Senator Kuehl, Author  
Lynn Schenk, Chief of Staff  
Mike Gotch, Legislative Affairs Secretary  
Ann Richardson, Deputy Legislative Secretary  
Richard Figueroa, Deputy Legislative Secretary