

August 10, 2010

The Honorable Jenny Oropeza
California State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Notice of Opposition to Senate Bill 949 (Oropeza)

Dear Senator Oropeza:

This letter is to inform you that the City of Lemoore opposes your Senate Bill 949 related to vehicle code citations, because it preempts local public safety enforcement powers with a one-size fits all approach.

This bill would create a blanket preemption of municipal codes addressing traffic violations and prohibits a local agency from issuing a traffic citation if the penalty assessed through the local municipal code is different from that provided for in the state Vehicle Code. The intent of this legislation is well within reason but the consequences of SB 949 are problematic for both local agencies and the state, and sets a dangerous precedent for state control over policies intended to address public safety issues specific to a jurisdiction.

Municipal vehicle codes are important to city government, the law enforcement officers serving those cities, and courts reviewing citations to ensure an appropriate response to the local public safety needs. SB 949 regrettably removes that flexibility for a standardized approach.

Therefore, the City of Lemoore respectfully opposes SB 949.

Sincerely,

John F. Murray
Mayor

cc: Senator Dean Florez
Assemblyman Danny D. Gilmore
Senator Alan Lowenthal, Chair, Senate Transportation & Housing Committee
League of California Cities
Steve Samuelian, California Consulting