

August 2, 2022

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6240
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1740 (Muratsuchi) Catalytic Converters
City of South San Francisco – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Portantino,

On behalf of the City of South San Francisco, I write in strong support of AB 1740 (Muratsuchi), which would establish methods of tracing for catalytic converters. Specifically, this bill requires a core recycler who accepts a catalytic converter to include a written record of the year, make, model, in addition to the vehicle identification number (VIN) of the vehicle and a copy of the title of the vehicle from which the catalytic converter was removed. Additionally, the bill prohibits a core recycler from entering into a transaction to purchase or receive a catalytic converter from any person that is not a commercial enterprise or verifiable owner of the vehicle from which the catalytic converter was removed and requires a core recycler to verify specified information.

The City of South San Francisco has seen a drastic uptick in catalytic converter theft in recent years. Stealing catalytic converters has become a common trend as it can take less than 10 minutes to remove one from the underside of a parked car. Scrap metal yards are paying as much as \$1,000 for the stolen converters for their valuable materials such as platinum and palladium, while victims end up paying up to \$3,000 to replace the stolen converter. What's more, manufacturers often exclude serial numbers when making the car part, adding another layer of ease for the criminal activity.

Catalytic converter theft has both large payoffs and often goes undetected because of a lack of tracing methods. When converters are stolen, victims must file police reports in order to activate insurance reimbursement, which strains existing public safety personnel resources, particularly when cases increase drastically.

AB 1740 adds common sense tools to prevent catalytic converter theft by adding specific traceable requirements and associating misdemeanor penalties for violators. The bill will help discourage, prevent, and prosecute the growing crime of catalytic converter theft in California.

For these reasons, the City of South San Francisco supports AB 1740.

Sincerely,

Mark Nagales
Mayor
City of South San Francisco

