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SACRAMENTO COUNTY



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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SCOTT R. JONES

*Sheriff*

October 3, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

I would like to express my concern regarding a bill that I believe will adversely impact the State of California and the county of Sacramento. The bill to which I refer is **AB 711** (Rendon), commonly known as the lead ban bill.

As it is written, AB 711 would prohibit the use of lead in traditional ammunition used for hunting. While likely well-intended, this bill will have a detrimental effect on hunting and lawful firearm ownership in California. I have heard from both my deputies and my constituents who hunt, participate in outdoor recreation, and have a deep love of the resources in our region.

One significant reason for my concern is that the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has determined that most non-lead ammunition meets the criteria of "armor piercing" and, as such, has banned the manufacture or sale of this kind of ammunition without special permission from the bureau. More than 20 petitions have been submitted by manufacturers over the past few years, and all have languished without action. As a consequence, non-lead ammunition is unavailable in most hunting calibers. The small amount that is available is much more expensive, thereby putting a strain on hunters and law enforcement officers alike.

The "armor-piercing" classification was done as a protection to law enforcement and the general public. I believe that any discussion regarding state regulation of ammunition composition should occur with law enforcement participating in stakeholder conversations. Given the delayed implementation amended into this bill and its non-urgent status, this current iteration should be vetoed and a more comprehensive and inclusive addressing of ammunition composition regulations should occur.

I believe that this bill, if signed, would enact an undue burden on the entire hunting community, which includes many members of law enforcement. For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto on AB 711.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Jones".

Scott R. Jones, Sacramento County Sheriff