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AmericanMotorcyclist.com

January 3, 2012

The Honorable Kevin Jeffries
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 1047

Dear Assemblyman Jeffries:

Thank you for introducing Assembly Bill 1047, which would prohibit the use of motorcycle safety grant monies from being used to fund motorcycle only checkpoints. The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) has been working at both the state and federal level to ensure this discriminatory practice is ended.

Founded in 1924, the AMA is the premier advocate of the motorcycling community. We represent the interests of millions of on- and off-highway motorcyclists nationwide. Our mission is to promote the motorcycle lifestyle and protect the future of motorcycling.

The AMA has long questioned both the legality and the efficacy of these types of programs, and thanks you for recognizing the unfairness of targeting a single group of roads users simply due to their chosen method of travel. Quite simply, the riding community would be better served if these limited federal dollars were used to augment and expand proven existing awareness and safety programs, or to help ensure the completion of important research efforts such as the Motorcycle Crash Causation Study at Oklahoma State University. The creation of the checkpoint program was done with no input from the riding community and has yet to provide any proof of effectiveness or reduction in accident rates.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Haris
Western States Representative