



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Lili Bosse, Mayor

June 7, 2022

The Honorable Thomas J. Umberg
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6730
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 986 (Umberg and Portantino)—Vehicles: Catalytic Converters
City of Beverly Hills SUPPORT

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to **SUPPORT SB 986**, your measure to help address the statewide challenges surrounding catalytic converter theft. **SB 986** would establish new requirements to track transactions involving catalytic converters. The bill would also prohibit the sale of a new motor vehicle with a catalytic converter, unless that equipment has been engraved or etched with the vehicle identification number (VIN).

Catalytic converters have become an unusual windfall for thieves, who can make hundreds of dollars selling them to auto parts suppliers or scrapyards. Catalytic converters can be melted and the highly valuable metals, like palladium and rhodium, extracted. Because of the global demand for the critical emission-control devices, just an ounce of the precious metals themselves can be worth thousands of dollars.

A recent report released by State Farm Insurance showed that California leads the nation in the number of catalytic converter thefts. From 2019 to 2029, the Los County Sheriff's Department reported a 400 percent increase in catalytic converter thefts.

Additionally, State Farm Insurances states they paid over \$10.8 million for 4,507 catalytic converter theft claims in California in 2020. In 2021, those numbers more than doubled to \$23 million paid for 9,057 theft claims.

SB 986 would address significant legal challenges for prosecuting catalytic converter these. Currently, the absence of serial number identification markings on catalytic converters and a lack of obligation for core recyclers to obtain information necessary to identify the origin of a catalytic converter prior to purchase make it difficult to determine if the catalytic converter was legally obtained or stolen.

SB 986 would help address this issue as it would establish a new requirement for catalytic converters to have a VIN and for recyclers to obtain information on the origin of a catalyst converter. This would help law enforcement apprehend individuals who choose to commit these crimes and deter would-be thieves from engaging in these thefts in the first place. For these reasons, we **SUPPORT SB 986** and thank you for bringing the important measure forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lili Bosse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lili Bosse

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 26th District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Assemblymember, 50th District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange