



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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July 14, 2022

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Senate Appropriations Committee, Chair
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

ASSEMBLY BILL 2407 (O'DONNELL) SUPPORT Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2407 (O'Donnell).

AB 2407 requires a core recycler who accepts a catalytic converter for recycling to report the following information to their local police or sheriff's department:

- The place and date of each sale or purchase of a catalytic converter;
- The name, valid driver's license number, and state of issue, or California-issued identification number, of the seller of the catalytic converter and the vehicle license number, including of issue of a motor vehicle used in transporting the catalytic converter to the core recycler's place of business. If the seller is a business, the written record shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the business;
- A description of the catalytic converters purchased or sold, including the item type and quantity, amount paid for the catalytic converter, and identification number, if any, and the vehicle identification number; and,
- A statement indicating either that the seller of the catalytic converter is the owner of the catalytic converter, or the name of the person from whom he or she has obtained the catalytic converter, including the business, if applicable, as shown on a signed transfer document.

AB 2407 would also require a core recycler to obtain a thumbprint of the seller and to preserve the thumbprint in hard copy or electronic format for a period of two years after the date of sale.

AB 2407 also encourages law enforcement to report thefts to catalytic converters to the theft alert system maintained by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. and would require a core recycler to request to receive theft alert notifications involving stolen catalytic converters from the theft alert system maintained by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. unless the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries requires payment for the use of the theft alert system.

Catalytic converter thefts have reached epidemic levels nationally and in the State of California. Nationally, there has been a 1,171% increase in these thefts since 2019. A recent report released by State Farm Insurance showed that California leads the nation in the number of catalytic converter thefts. In Los Angeles County, the Sheriff's Department reported a 400% increase in catalytic converter thefts from

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2019 to 2020. Across California, catalytic converter replacements increased more than 90% in 2020. State Farm paid over \$10.8 million for 4,507 catalytic converter theft claims in California in 2020. Last year, those numbers more than doubled to \$23 million paid for 9,057 theft claims.

Catalytic converters, which are emissions control devices located underneath a vehicle, restrict carbon monoxide from coming out of a vehicle's tailpipe. Catalytic converters contain three valuable metals, including platinum, rhodium and palladium which is why they are stolen in such large numbers. Thieves can sell catalytic converters for hundreds, even thousands of dollars depending on the size of the parts stolen.

AB 2407 will assist in the efforts to combat the overwhelming surge in catalytic converter thefts which have placed an enormous burden on the victims of these crimes.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gascón", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney

cc: Assembly Member O'Donnell