City of Santa Rosa

May 15, 2023

Senator Thomas Umberg
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6530
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 55 (Umberg) Vehicles: catalytic converters (As Amended 4/10/23)

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I write to express our support for your Senate Bill 55. The proposed bill would assist law enforcement in catching and identifying individuals in possession of dozens, or even hundreds, of suspect catalytic converters. Unfortunately, at the current time, law enforcement investigators often have challenges to prove that a catalytic converter was stolen.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor
DIANNA MACDONALD
Vice Mayor
EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS
MARK STAPP

This bill would remedy the situation by requiring that car dealers apply the vehicle identification number (VIN) to the catalytic converter of each vehicle listed for sale. This will enhance the ability of law enforcement agencies to track stolen catalytic converters, and identify which vehicles they were stolen from.

In terms of local data, Santa Rosa residents reported the following catalytic converter thefts:

- 2020 – 150
- 2021 – 368
- 2022 – 143

Thank you for your leadership on this important public safety matter. The City of Santa Rosa is pleased to support this measure, as reflected by the Council's unanimous vote on May 9, 2023 to support SB 55. Should you have any questions about our position, please contact our legislative advocate, Alyssa Silhi, with the Renne Public Policy Group, at (916) 505-4978.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers, Mayor

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