Idaho Sheriffs' Association

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Respected Senators,

The purpose of this letter is to express our opposition to **Senate Bill 1307**. This bill aims to amend existing law to provide that certain vehicles are permitted to display only a rear license plate. A similar bill failed in the Senate Transportation Committee in the 2021 legislative session as law enforcement has expressed how this limits law enforcements capabilities.

Motor vehicles are used in 70 percent of all serious crimes committed in the United States. Front and rear fully reflective license plates are essential in the quick and accurate identification of motor vehicles even at highway speeds. In order to enforce and to properly identify criminals, law enforcement uses automated license plate readers to apprehend individuals involved in crimes. Many of these crimes include stolen vehicles, outstanding warrants and amber alerts.

This bill is also concerning for law enforcement officials as this limits traffic enforcement activities. Front and rear license plates are paramount in avoiding traffic accidents and the recognition of oncoming traffic or parked vehicles. The license plate may be the only reflectivity on the front of a vehicle as it enhances visibility during the day and night. Seeing a vehicle more quickly allows drivers to better react in the case of stalled or crashed vehicles as well as changes in the traffic ahead, helping to decrease the chance for an accident.

In the past, rear-plate-only proponents, such as car collectors and owners of high-end vehicles, have argued that their vehicles will be damaged or altered. In fact, many after-market, no-drill front-plate brackets are readily available online and at retailers. Neither has credible evidence been offered that proves front plates affect vehicle sensors.

Respectfully, we ask for law enforcement support and your no-vote on **Senate Bill 1307**.

Sincerely,

Jeff Lavey, Executive Director
Idaho Sheriffs Association