



County of Del Norte
Board of Supervisors
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February 25, 2025

The Honorable Chris Rogers
California State Assembly District 2
1021 O Street, Suite 5130
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1014 (Rogers) - Sponsor

Dear Assemblymember Rogers:

On behalf of the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors, I write in sponsorship and support of your AB 1014, which aims to improve road safety, particularly in high-traffic and vulnerable areas, by providing more flexibility in setting speed limits and addressing local safety issues.

In Del Norte County, speed is a major factor in traffic collisions that result in pedestrian fatalities or injuries along state highways that intersect State and National Recreation Areas, such as U.S. Route 199 that passes through portions of Jedediah Smith State Park, the Six Rivers National Forest/Smith River National Recreation Area, and recreationally designated segments of the Wild and Scenic Smith River around the communities of Hiouchi and Gasquet. Highways that intersect State and National Recreation Areas continue to be hazardous areas, where pedestrians are at high risk of injury or death due to fast-moving vehicles and the added volume of cars and pedestrian traffic from kayakers, rafters, hikers, bicyclists, and fishermen; pedestrians may cross highways to travel between areas, or tourists may walk alongside highways to reach campsites. To complicate the matter, the unique conditions in terms of visitor-serving and recreational activities are not properly accounted for in current law, leading to speed limits in excess of what these communities generally consider to be safe.

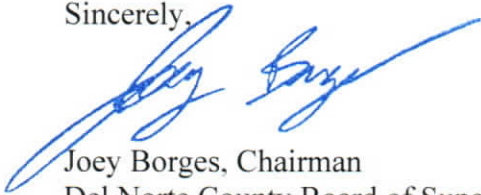
While traffic speed enforcement is critical to efforts in California to reduce factors that contribute to traffic collisions that result in fatalities or injuries, currently, the Department of Transportation (CalTrans) has little discretion in lowering or maintaining speed limits on state highways it controls. Further, the method used to set speed limits—based on the 85th percentile speed—can result in higher speed limits, even in areas with high pedestrian or cyclist traffic. This can be counterproductive and fails to account for the safety of vulnerable road users and the specific safety concerns found in high-traffic areas of rural highways. Speed limits that aren't adjusted to reflect local conditions put pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable users at significant risk.

Del Norte County is pleased to sponsor AB 1014 because the bill aims to improve public safety by giving local authorities and CalTrans additional tools to adjust speed limits in response to specific conditions, such as the presence of vulnerable populations and high-risk areas. Specifically, this bill establishes clear guidelines for adjusting speed limits in high-traffic areas with vulnerable road users, such as locations with a high concentration of pedestrians, cyclists, or areas designated as "safety corridors" due to higher rates of collisions or fatalities. This bill also creates the option to adjust speed limits on state highways, including reductions up to ten miles per hour, based on specific safety concerns.

California should do everything possible to protect the safety and well-being of vulnerable pedestrian groups, and by providing greater flexibility to CalTrans to incorporate local input in setting speed limits along state highways that intersect State and National Recreation Areas, AB 1014 will enhance public safety and ensure that local jurisdictions can respond effectively to evolving safety concerns in their communities. This bill is a cost-effective strategy to improve the safety and health of the community, while maintaining important visitor-serving and recreational opportunities.

For these reasons, the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors is pleased to sponsor and support AB 1014. Thank you for your authorship of this important measure.

Sincerely,



Joey Borges, Chairman
Del Norte County Board of Supervisors

CC: Honorable Mike McGuire, President pro tempore of California State Senate
Mark Neuburger, California State Association of Counties
Sidd Nag, Rural County Representatives of California
Tamera Leighton, Del Norte Local Transportation Commission
Karen Lange, SYASL