

**Testimony of Joseph Regan, Fraternal Order of Police, PA State Lodge
Before Pennsylvania Senate and House Transportation Committees
July 14, 2015 – Radar/Lidar for Local Law Enforcement**

Good morning. My name is Joseph Regan. I am a retired veteran of the Lower Merion Township Police Department in Montgomery County. I am also proud to serve as Recording Secretary and Legislative Committee Chairman of the Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge, which represents over 40,000 law enforcement professionals throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I would like to extend my thanks to Committee Chairs Rafferty and Taylor, Minority Chairs Wozniak and Keller, and the other Committee members for your work on matters of concern to Pennsylvania's Police Officers.

I appear before this Joint Committee today to state the PA FOP's position on the use of radar and related speed timing equipment and techniques by local law enforcement professionals. The FOP supports the use of radar by local police under appropriate circumstances, as we regularly endorse the use of new technologies to help Police Officers perform our important work more effectively and more efficiently.

The PA FOP supports Senate Bill 559, PN 536, because SB 559 permits the use of this new technology in local departments in a manner that addresses safety and health concerns of citizens and police officers, and also protects against possible abuses.

First, SB 559 permits the use of radar by certified Act 120 police officers employed by full-service police departments. The PA FOP firmly believes that policing by certified, trained police officers within full-service, 24/7 police departments, is the best method of delivering law enforcement services to Pennsylvania's citizens. This approach should not be altered when it comes to the use of tools like radar or lidar.

Second, SB 559 manages radar revenues in a manner that will enhance traffic safety for civilians and law enforcement officers throughout the Commonwealth, as opposed to keeping those revenues solely within the municipalities and counties that utilize radar. From the FOP's perspective, the goal for local radar must be citizen and officer safety, not enhanced local revenues. By channeling excess radar-related revenues into larger traffic safety initiatives education, training and accreditation, and by requiring training and certification before officers may be permitted to utilize radar, we can place our local police departments in the best position to succeed. And by limiting the local share of radar revenues, we can also protect against the possibility of abuse/overuse by overzealous municipalities.

Because the bill meets the criteria set forth above, the PA FOP supports SB 559. In closing, let me again thank the Committee Chairmen and members for your continued support of Pennsylvania's Police Officers. We look forward to continuing to work with the Committees on this and other issues in order to provide for safer roads and safer citizens throughout the Commonwealth. I would be happy to answer any questions on my testimony. Thank you.