

# SB 12-050



## BUILDING A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH COLORADO'S CITIES AND TOWNS

To: Members of the Colorado Senate  
From: Mark Radtke, Legislative & Policy Advocate  
Date: Jan. 17, 2012  
Subject: SB 12-050 — Prohibit red light camera; Sen. Renfroe, Rep. Baumgardner

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### SB 12-050 – YOUR OPPOSITION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED

SB 12-050 prohibits the use of automated vehicle identification systems by law enforcement. Commonly known as “red light camera” and “speed photo radar” these systems use automated systems to record violations of speed limits and traffic light compliance.

- Use of photo speed radar and red light intersection cameras is controlled in each community by city council. These elected officials are responsive to community opinion and safety concerns.
- City councils routinely weigh the safety benefits of this law enforcement tool and adjust its application in their community.
- The only goal of the program is motorist compliance with the law.
- Most of the fine revenue collected is used to administer the program.
- Use of photo speed radar enforcement is already strictly limited to residential streets, school zones and construction zones. Violators must exceed the speed limit by at least 10 miles per hour to be cited.
- Red light cameras are deployed at selected high risk intersections.
- Fines are limited to no more than \$40 for speeding and \$75 for red light infractions. No points are assessed against a driver’s record
- Examples of improved safety:
  - o Littleton has recorded a 63% decrease in the number of accidents at intersections with red light cameras.
  - o Denver has recorded a decrease in traffic accidents in eight of the 10 areas in which photo radar is used to enforce speed limits. Total accidents in Denver have dropped by 24% since these tools were first used in 2002.
  - o Boulder has recorded a 50% decrease in the number of vehicles running red lights at intersections where cameras were installed.
- The use of this law enforcement tool is being handled where it should be – by the elected officials of each municipality.

### SB 12-050 – YOUR “NO” VOTE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED

