

**Testimony of Joseph Regan, Fraternal Order of Police, PA State Lodge
Before Pennsylvania Senate, Transportation Committee
June 17, 2014 – Local Use of Radar**

Good morning. My name is Joseph Regan. I am a retired, 28 year 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 Chairman Rafferty, Democratic Chairman Wozniak and the other Committee members for your work on matters of concern to Pennsylvania's Police Officers.

I appear before the 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, subject to the following considerations:

The FOP supports the use of radar by full-time police officers employed by full-service police departments. We firmly believe that full-time policing by full-time, 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 new tools like radar. From our perspective, the goal for local radar must be citizen and officer safety, not enhanced local revenues. Limiting the local share of radar revenues will protect against the possibility of abuse/overuse by overzealous municipalities.

Because Senate Bill 1340 lacks the protections referenced in my testimony, the PA FOP does not support this bill as written. The FOP would, however; support an amendment that addresses our concerns. We believe in the common sense use of technology in order to improve police services and make citizens safer. We have also supported local radar bills in past legislative sessions, and welcome the opportunity to participate as stakeholders in the development of a local radar system that provides for safer communities in an efficient and effective manner.

In closing, let me again thank Chairman Rafferty and the Committee for your continued support of Pennsylvania's Police Officers. We look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on this and other issues in order to provide for safer roads for the citizens throughout the Commonwealth. I would be happy to answer any questions on my testimony. Thank you.