

March 23, 1967

Handwritten signature/initials

Honorable Lester G. Maddox
Governor
State of Georgia
State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Governor Maddox:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Traffic and Safety Council I urge you to give favorable consideration to signing the Radar Speed Control Bill. After study in depth by our staff, I am firmly convinced that this measure will prevent many traffic deaths in our State.

Might I call your attention to the attached chart, illustrating that Georgia traffic fatalities were reasonable steady (varying between 900 and 1,100) from 1950 to 1962. You will note that the tremendous increase from 1963 to 1966 corresponds with the period when the State lost radar.

In the City of Atlanta last year we reached a new high of 106 traffic fatalities. Compared to the types of accidents which caused traffic deaths prior to 1963, the entire increase in fatal accidents occurred through "leaving the roadway" and "crossing the center line - head-on collision" accidents. These are both types of accidents brought about by extremely high speeds.

The existing bill offers a number of effective safeguards against misuse:

1. It can only be used where the State Traffic Engineering and Safety Division has approved a speed limit, based on an engineering study.
2. No cases can be made for speeding less than 10 miles over this engineeringly sound speed limit.
3. It cannot be used close to a change in speed limits, within 30 days after the change in speed limits, or on an incline of more than seven degrees.

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4. The speed must be mechanically stamped on the ticket by the radar instrument.
5. The jurisdictions using radar must post warning signs to this effect.
6. In the event of misuse, even with the above restrictions, you, as Governor, may revoke the permit of the jurisdiction using radar.

In light of the above, I am confident that you will see the wisdom of signing this bill promptly, affording Georgia citizens the advantage of this modern life-saving equipment.

Sincerely,

George Goodwin
President

GG/sp

Attachment

bcc: ✓ Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.
Mr. George Goodwin
Mr. Ray Brokaw