



State Senator Don Huffines - Senate District 16 (Dallas)

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SEN HUFFINES: ILLEGAL RED LIGHT CAMERAS MUST GO!

Senator Huffines doubles effort to turn off red light cameras and calls for driver refunds - with interest

Austin – Following an in-depth investigative report by *KXAN-TV* in Austin, Senator Don Huffines (R-Dallas) called on all cities that are in violation of state law to immediately comply and issue refunds to drivers. A consistent and vocal opponent of red light cameras, Senator Huffines also announced a renewed focus on repealing red light cameras.

Senator Huffines stated, "It's outrageous that so many cities are ignoring Texas law. Any cities that are not following the law should expect serious and significant consequences from the Legislature, and from their drivers and voters, locally. Texans are as tired of red light cameras as they are of self-interested bureaucrats who think they are above the law. Drivers deserve refunds - *with interest* - immediately!"

The *KXAN-TV* investigative report found that out of 49 responsive cities that have red light cameras, only three have conducted proper engineering studies as required by state law. The *KXAN-TV* report also found that "TxDOT records that show 29 of the 59 red light camera cities have not consistently submitted annual reports" on annual crash data for every intersection with a red light camera, which is also required by state law.

Senator Huffines continued, "Those engineering studies and intersection reports are a critical element of road safety, yet money hungry bureaucrats are skipping over them in their never-ending effort to bilk drivers of their money to fill city coffers. Red light cameras are little more than a tool used by local bureaucrats to shake-down drivers at every intersection for even more of their hard-earned money. Bureaucrats usually ignore more effective and less controversial methods to keep drivers safe because red light cameras help generate more money for local governments."

In the 84th Texas Legislature (2015) - his first session in the Legislature - Senator Huffines authored Senate Bill 340 to repeal red light cameras throughout the state. In the 85th Texas Legislature (2017), Senator Huffines authored similar legislation: Senate Bill 111. Senator Huffines co-authored Senate Bill 88, which passed the Texas Senate on March 29, 2017. In 2019, when the 86th Texas Legislature convenes, Senator Huffines will once again seek to turn off red light cameras throughout the state.

Senator Huffines concluded, "Red light cameras are unpopular, unsafe, and unjust. Texans accused of running a red light deserve the respect and discretion of a uniformed police officer who can incorporate all the needed information pertaining to an alleged violation. The safety of Texas drivers is of the utmost importance, and red light cameras are not the solution to making our roads safer. It's past time to turn off every red light camera in Texas."

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Senator Don Huffines represents the North half of Dallas County in the Texas Senate. First elected in 2014, he serves as Vice Chairman of the Senate Veteran Affairs & Border Security Committee, and as a member of the Senate Committees on Natural Resources & Economic Development, Education, Intergovernmental Relations, and Administration.

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Senate District 16

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