

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



May 21, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), representing 3,081 sheriffs across the nation, we write to express our strong opposition to Representative Perry's amendment to H.R. 8870, the Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America's 250th Act (BUILD America 250 Act). This amendment would severely undermine law enforcement's ability to utilize lawful investigative technologies that are critical to protecting our communities and combating increasingly sophisticated criminal organizations.

Law enforcement across the country relies on license plate reader (LPR) technology every day as a lawful and indispensable investigative tool to identify dangerous criminals, locate missing and exploited children, recover stolen vehicles, disrupt human trafficking networks, and interdict narcotics trafficking operations tied to transnational criminal organizations and drug cartels. Restricting access to or use of these tools would be detrimental to law enforcement officers working to protect the public.

License plate reader systems are particularly valuable in combating cartel-related criminal activity. Sheriffs working alongside federal, state, local, and HIDTA partners use LPR technology to identify trafficking corridors, track vehicles associated with fentanyl and narcotics smuggling, connect suspects across jurisdictions, and support investigations involving organized criminal enterprises. These systems are used pursuant to existing laws and policies and are subject to constitutional protections and oversight.

NSA strongly objects to legislative efforts that would handcuff law enforcement's ability to access and utilize lawful investigative tools without meaningful consultation with sheriffs and other public safety professionals. Policies that limit the use of proven investigative technologies will only benefit criminal organizations and make communities less safe.

Law enforcement must retain the tools necessary to protect our communities, safeguard public safety, and defend vulnerable victims from increasingly organized and technologically advanced criminal activity. We urge the Committee to reject Representative Perry's amendment.

We stand ready and willing to engage in an open and constructive discussion on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris West".

Sheriff Chris West
Canadian County, OK
President
National Sheriffs' Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Smith".

Justin Smith
Executive Director, CEO
National Sheriffs' Association