

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

March 23, 2016

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
H-310, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Honda
Acting Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Honda:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) bill, we urge you to include language that that will prevent unconstitutional restrictions of the Second Amendment through the “sporting purposes” test.

The Second Amendment gives Americans an undeniable right to bear arms, and included in that right is the right for Americans to protect themselves. While sporting purposes are indeed part of that right, it should not fall to the discretion of the United States Attorney General to determine which purposes are suitable for an American to import a gun or to assemble a gun made from imported parts.

In *D.C. vs. Heller*, the Supreme Court held that the District of Columbia’s ban on handguns in the home and requirement of trigger locks were unconstitutional. The Court held that handguns were a class of guns used by a broad range of citizens for home defense and were thus constitutional. The Court also held that the trigger lock requirement made the use of handguns impossible, thus violating the Second Amendment.

Two years later, in 2010, the Court expounded upon *Heller* by holding in *McDonald v. Chicago* that the Second Amendment is incorporated by the Fourteenth Amendment Due Process Clause and thus applies to the States.

These two decisions enforced the long established view in America that gun ownership for the purposes of defense is constitutional. In fact, Americans can lawfully own guns for many reasons, including simply collecting guns. Based on these decisions, it is clear that the court believes that the Second Amendment applies to all Americans, and that Americans should be free to own firearms for purposes other than simply a "sporting purpose" as defined by the Attorney General.

Since the Second Amendment was ratified, there has been a continual push to chip away at Americans' right to bear arms. 18 U.S.C. 922(r) is another such troubling statute because it leaves decisions on the legality of imported firearms, firearm parts, and ammunition to the Attorney General's discretion. 18 U.S.C. 925(d) gives the Attorney General latitude to determine which firearms and ammunition are suitable for importation.

The sporting purposes test is an infringement upon the rights of Americans to buy and assemble guns to protect themselves. Giving the Attorney General the latitude to make decisions regarding the purposes for which an American seeks to purchase parts and assemble a gun is not in keeping with our Constitution. For over 200 years, our Constitution has protected Americans' rights to buy arms to defend themselves. The U.S. Attorney General should not have the ability to deny Americans that right.

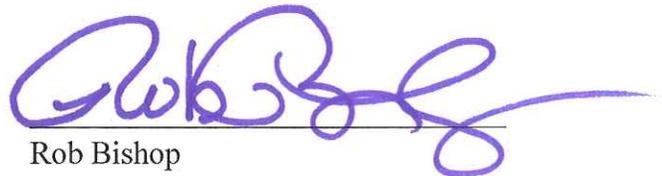
Accordingly, we ask that you include the same language contained in H.R. 2710 (see attached language file).

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,



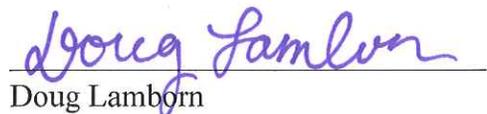
Paul A. Gosar, DDS
Member of Congress



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



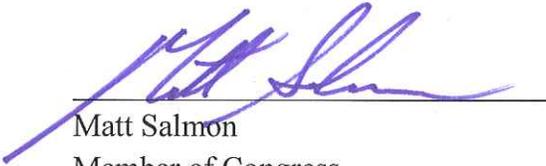
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress