

1 My name is Maurice K. Sanders. I am a resident of Dunes City which is located on the coast in western
2 Lane County. I am an honorably retired law enforcement officer with 28 years of service. Additionally I
3 served honorably in the United States Army in the Military Police. I retired over a year ago as the Chief
4 of Police for the City of Florence, Oregon. I am also an elected city councilor for the City of Dunes City
5 however my comments today are not those of the Dunes City Council or the citizens of City of Dunes
6 City. I am providing my own thoughts, beliefs, and opinions only.

7 I support background checks for the purchase/transfer of firearms. I believe there is a legitimate interest
8 by the State of Oregon in assuring, as best it is able, that prohibited persons, specifically felons,
9 dangerous mentally ill persons, or persons with dangerous mental disorders, do not obtain firearms in a
10 lawful manner.

11 Senate Bill 700 with the proposed amendments will meet this interest of the state. There is a potential
12 opportunity for this committee to address a concern that exists with this bill by some. This is a fear that
13 this is the first step towards confiscation of firearms. There is a way to make it clear by this legislative
14 body with this bill that confiscation of firearms due to the “de facto” registration data created by this bill
15 is not its goal. Addressing this concern may be accomplished without detracting from the desirability to
16 have background checks done with all transfers of firearms. In line 7 – 9 page 3 of the printed copy of
17 the proposed amendments to Senate Bill 700 I propose adding **SECTION 1 (6) (c): “The record of**
18 **information obtained during a request for a criminal background check under this section shall not be**
19 **used by any federal, state, or local law enforcement agency except for an active criminal**
20 **investigation.”** Similarly in line 29 – 30 page 7 and line 1 page 8 of the printed copy of the proposed
21 amendments to Senate Bill 700 I propose adding **SECTION 2 (7) (c): “The record of information obtained**
22 **during a request for a criminal background check under this section shall not be used by any federal,**
23 **state, or local law enforcement agency except for an active criminal investigation.”**

24 Another area I would suggest amending is the increase in the classification of violation of this offense
25 with the first conviction being a Class C misdemeanor, the second a Class A misdemeanor, and the third
26 a Class C felony without regard to time frames of the convictions. In line 6 – 9 page 4 of the printed copy
27 of the proposed amendments to Senate Bill 700 regarding SECTION 1 (9) (b), I propose replacing that
28 language with the following: **“(b) A person who fails to comply with the requirements of sub-section**
29 **(2) of this section commits a Class A misdemeanor if the person has a previous conviction under this**
30 **section at the time of the offense and the previous conviction is within three years of the second**
31 **conviction.”** Similarly in line 10 - 13 page 4 of the printed copy of the proposed amendments to Senate
32 Bill 700 regarding SECTION 1 (9) (c) I propose replacing that language with the following: **“(c) A person**
33 **who fails to comply with the requirements of subsection (2) of this section commits a Class C felony if**
34 **the person has two or more previous convictions under this section at the time of the offense and the**
35 **first conviction is within five years of the third conviction.”**

36 Respectfully submitted,

37

38 Maurice K. Sanders