

Senate Judiciary Committee
April 5, 2013

**Testimony for Gary Haycox, Citizen of Oregon, the U.S.A., and representative of
*We the People***

I want to acknowledge and thank, the Chairman and Vice-Chair, members of the Committee and the people of Oregon for the opportunity to voice my position and concerns in regards to the Bills being discussed in Committee today, and those, which may be deliberated on in the future.

My name is Gary Haycox, I am a concerned citizen of Oregon, and Not a lobbyist or paid consultant representing any organization or industry. In full disclosure, I am a member of the National Rifle Association and the Oregon Firearms Federation, as a citizen member. I have a conceal handgun license and have had a CHL for over 25 years. I have never had to use any firearm in that time and pray that I will never need to in the future; but I will stay vigilant and prepared to defend myself and others against acts of evil.

With the limited time I have to testify, I want to ensure that appropriate consideration is granted throughout the legislative process. Within this limited time period, I could in no way provide enough depth and detail for each specific proposed Bill. However, I would like to ensure that the rights of *We the People* are given the highest priority, at all times during the legislative process.

First, I wanted to reinforce the concepts of our Constitutional Rights guaranteed to each and every American Citizen and remind everyone that these rights are Inalienable Rights, inherent in each of us, provided by our Creator; these rights of Freedom are *Not* a product of our government – let me repeat, The Rights of We the People are inherent in each of us and are *Not* a product of the government.

Government can only infringe upon our rights by creating law, the law of man. Instead of infringement, we must continue to strengthen our resolve to protect these *Rights of Freedom*.

Each and every public official takes an oath of office to swear or affirm to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution from all enemies, foreign or *domestic*. This oath, this responsibility, can be seen as analogous to a doctor who takes the Hippocratic oath, which affirms a core philosophy of “*Do No Harm*” to the patient. Our government representatives, after taking the oath of office, has the responsibility of “*Do No Harm*” and more importantly, “*Uphold, Protect and Defend*” the Constitutional rights of *We the People*.

Please remember that the Constitution is the bedrock of our freedom and liberty, rooted in the concepts laid out in the Declaration of Independence. The colonists, our ancestors, fought with their lives and risked everything to break away from the Monarchy of England while establishing the greatest country in the world. Our fore fathers provided each and every one of us with the framework, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, to assure that we retain our Liberty and Freedom. The founding fathers created the Bill of Rights, not to create rights, but to remind everyone the importance of our inalienable rights; the Bill of Rights enumerate the core rights that the founding fathers wanted to highlight, as these rights were those that were violated by the tyrannical government under King George.

Today, we are here to discuss the 2nd Amendment, but remember that each Amendment within the Bill of Rights is part and parcel to the bedrock foundation of our Liberty. Each Amendment strengthens and protects the other; if we weaken any, we weaken all.

I would like to provide a couple thoughts on how we might frame the process of introducing, deliberating and finalizing regulations and law.

First and foremost, do no harm when creating regulations and law, as these are infringements to the rights of free people.

Second, please require a higher standard for research, information, statistics and debate; these quotable quotes: "There are lies, damn lies and then there are statistics"; "Figures don't lie, liars figure"; "Power corrupts and Absolute Power corrupts Absolutely", these are all rooting in truth.

With a little humor, but important non-the-less, consider using Rep. Nancy Pelosi as a metaphor in creating a new verb. For example, we have been Pelosi'd whenever a regulation or bill is pushed through under the construct of "We must pass this bill in order to find out what is in the Bill". We need and deserve a much higher standard when deliberating, we need to continue and maintain transparency and demand open and honest debate with good faith negotiation whenever government takes action that impacts the rights and liberty of *We the People*.

In closing I hope that by providing a context in regards to our inalienable rights, our constitutional bedrock and the philosophy of deeper contemplation in lieu of "fast action" emotional responses when considering infringing upon the rights of *We the People* will have an enduring imprint as we consider the legislation brought to this committee today and for other committees in the future.

I want to again thank the Committee for their time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Gary Haycox