

Union County Cattlemen
61931 Cottonwood Rd.
La Grande, OR 97850
April 3, 2013

Senate Judiciary Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chairman Prozanski and Committee Members:

Union County Cattlemen strongly oppose any infringement on our Second Amendment right for private citizens to own and bear arms. SB 347, SB 699, SB 760, and SB 796 are punitive, unnecessary and unconstitutional for law abiding citizens of Oregon. We have had several meetings this year where we discussed the right to bear arms as provided in the Constitution and are unanimous in our opposition to the four bills listed above and are full support for the position of our County Sheriff's statement that it is his sworn duty to protect our constitutional rights. School safety is a local concern and as citizens we intend to work together to keep our children safe where ever they are and do not feel another law on the books in Oregon will improve what we are already doing.

There is an emergency to protect the health and safety of the citizens but that cannot be achieved through the bills being presented. Commuting or shortening sentences for convicted criminals is inexcusable and a far larger threat to citizens than any kind of lethal weapons we may possess. Recidivism of criminals should be dealt with to the fullest extent of present law. Thwarting the rights granted in the 2nd Amendment by offering these bills makes little or no sense.

We disagree that disarming of state legislators and their staffs is needed and based on our understanding of the idea is that gun free areas are as good as advertised killing zones (SB 699). We very much disagree with SB 700 requiring a person to request a criminal background check before transferring a firearm to another individual. As stated above, this idea is focused on a non- solution because the problem isn't the law abiding citizens who own, buy, sell or trade guns, but the mentally ill who will never be listed in the registration data bank due to the Physician/patient privacy privilege, and criminals who usually acquire guns nefariously. The penalty and fines in this bill would be more appropriate in a police state. Such laws in a freedom loving, law abiding society smacks of entrapment and is doomed to fail because it does nothing to prevent bad people from doing bad things and penalizes good people by taking away their rights.

SB 796 and SB 760 inhibits free will and choice and assumes Oregonians should have neither when it comes to personal responsibility. We suggest the legislature focus attention on the economy and excessive taxes and regulation and merely support local law enforcement in crime prevention and enforcement of the more than adequate laws we already have. Society's ills will not ever be solved by making another gun law. Best to recognize root causes of society's ills and realize that government is not the answer to them nor should it be.

We appreciate having an opportunity to provide comments and urge a no vote on all of these bills.

Sincerely,

Union County Cattlemen members

Dennis Murchison, President

Jason Beck, Vice-President

Pat Larson, Secretary