

April 14,2013

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
Salem, Oregon OR 97301

Subject: Support for SB 713

Dear Sir,

The Siuslaw Gun Club is located in Florence, and is the only shooting range in that area. It currently has almost 900 family memberships, and for \$60 per year, those members can shoot in a safe environment, ensuring that the bullets they shoot will impact safely into a backstop berm. The club has organized activities every week, but more importantly, it provides a place for recreational shooting, which is the majority of the shooting done by the public. It also provides handgun safety classes on a monthly basis, teaching new shooters how to handle their firearms, under close supervision during the classes. ODF&W certified instructors also provide Hunter Safety Classes for new hunters on these ranges, at no cost to the state.

If this club hadn't been started and incorporated in 1928, and continually provided a safe place to shoot, there would not be a place on the Central Coast for these activities. It would be almost impossible to start a shooting range today, as evidenced by the trials that Coos County has been going through for the past several years, in trying to open a shooting range in their area, along with Tillamook County. All of the members of this club would be doing their shooting in the forests, along the roadways or trespassing on private lands, if it didn't exist. We all know the hazards of this activity when it is not supervised, and the trash and destruction left behind by unsupervised individuals when they don't have a vested interest in the property they are using.

This club is just one example of the advantages of having shooting ranges where people can safely practice their chosen sport. In every area where there is a shooting range, damage to other property is much less than areas where those ranges don't exist. There are more and more gun owners, some of them for the first time, and we need to provide places for them to learn how to use those firearms safely and responsibly, and those places are shooting ranges.

The other advantage is that there is no cost to government for private membership ranges. The state and local entities benefit from allowing shooting ranges to exist, since they are self-governing and have a vested interest in ensuring that firearms are used in a safe manner. This takes the burden off of the state, counties, and cities in policing activities that are unregulated on public lands, or trespassing on private lands. Allowing new shooting ranges is a win/win situation.

Sincerely,
Fred Ross
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