

April 1, 2015

Senator Floyd Prozanski
Senate Judiciary Committee

Subject: Opposition to SB 941

I am the chairman of the Oregon Association of Shooting Ranges which consists of twenty-nine of the largest ranges in Oregon, and 17,000 members. We are absolutely opposed to SB 941.

SB 941 appears to be the result of a political frenzy by Oregon legislators to take advantage of the new clear majority to gain their wish list on gun control. There apparently was little concern for a background check system that would actually work or that protected the rights of gun owners.

The real objective of the bill seems to be a stepping stone to State registration of all firearms. If the purpose was really only to ensure a back ground check, there would be no need to require information such as make, model, and serial numbers of the firearms being transferred. This information would be used to develop files on who owns what. Under the current system the State is required to destroy those records a relatively short time after the sale. However, in a similar hearing several years ago it was proven that did not happen. So much for following the law and trusting government.

This bill will have little to no impact on the criminal uses of firearms. The gang shootings in Portland aren't being done by legal gun owners who registered their purchases. Time after time we read articles of convicted felons being arrested in possession of a firearm. The primary source of these is a criminal market in stolen guns. Criminals are going to obtain a firearm that is not traceable to them.

If this legislation was considered productive or even useful it would have the support of law enforcement. It does not. Instead of helping law enforcement, it burdens them with harassing legal gun owners instead of fighting crime. This is made very clear by Washington County Sheriff Garrett in the March 31st Sherriff's Office News. He says that the law is unenforceable. I understand that a number of other Oregon sheriffs have made similar statements.

In conclusion, let's get the anti-gun legislators off their crusade and concentrate on fighting crime without violating honest citizens' Constitutional rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

.Sincerely,


George Pitts, Chairman

Oregon Assn. of Shooting Ranges
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