

Senators:

My name is BJ Soper, I am a resident of Redmond, Oregon. I believe I am too late to submit written testimony for the Hearing today but I felt it necessary to give my opposition to this bill and communicate with you regardless on yet another waste of time, and tax dollars in Salem.

First off, I find it insulting that a former senator has the ability to get his or her name on a bill proposal. The people have elected officials for a reason, and if the former senator wants to write law again, he should run for office... again.

SB897 is clearly a reaction to the Malheur issue that took place 2016. It addresses nothing of the root cause that has Rural Oregon in an uproar, nor does it address that 2 Oregon citizens sit in Federal prison for 5 years for burning \$100 worth of government sagebrush. Again, instead of legislators addressing the root issue of a problem, a "feel good bandaid" is presented instead.

One has to ask, as nobody seems to know. Can someone PLEASE define "militia"? Would that not be necessary for this bill to even make sense, or are we using the US CODE definition?

US CODE 10 Section 12 S246:

(a)

The militia of the United States consists of all able-bodied males at least 17 years of age and, except as provided in [section 313 of title 32](#), under 45 years of age who are, or who have made a declaration of intention to become, citizens of the United States and of female citizens of the United States who are members of the National Guard.

That seems to clarify a bit now doesn't it. In short, The People. So, in essence what Salem is trying to do is restrict The People from protesting. Why not just come out and say that? Instead, we get this "buzzword of the day" bill from someone who does not understand the root of the problem. Can someone please explain to me what this hopes to accomplish? What does having a firearm have a single thing to do with the function of this bill as proposed? Would not the same result be achieved if law enforcement had the ability to say "leave" to anyone "occupying" public property? Ahh, but see, this is not about protest at all now is it? This is another issue with firearms.

I could go on and on, but I will not. SB897 does nothing to address the root cause of the issue that triggered the Malheur occupation. Its an anti-gun, feel good bandaid as stated above. This bill does not address the rioting that took place in the Portland metro area, addresses the loss of property and violent actions that took place in Portland, or even works to prevent issues like that in the future. What it does is attempts to criminalize citizens who protest while enforcing their right to be armed.. ALWAYS.

Put our valued resources to good use. Make beneficial use of OUR money to make laws that benefit this State and the People. Our infrastructure is a mess, the courts are a mess, the executive branch runs a muck, and our spending is out of control. Work on the real problems, not fairy tales. When the real problems are addressed, events like the one that took place in Harney County 2016 don't happen.

The first step in actually making progress is to listen to the People that live here.

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In Defense of this Great Nation,

BJ Soper
Central Oregon Constitutional Guard

American jurors have complete Constitutional authority to vote "not guilty" based on nothing more than a disagreement with the case, no matter the evidence - despite the judge's instructions. There is absolutely no obligation to vote "guilty" to arrive at a unanimous verdict. Get on a jury, stand your ground, and fulfill its other main purpose: to counteract abusive government and unjust lawsuits.

See www.fija.org

Please adopt this as your own signature.