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Statement on SB 897
Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony of Kevin Starrett
Executive Director.

Oregon Firearms Federation opposes SB. 897

SB 897 creates the crime of “militia terrorism.” What is the “militia?” The militia is quite simply, all able bodied citizens capable and willing to be called upon to defend their state and country. To equate this noble and historic concept with “terrorism” is an insult to all people who would stand to defend freedom.

But this legislation is more than insulting. It is a purely political response to events that we have more than enough laws to deal with, as we have recently seen.

Under the bill a person could be charged with a felony after *complying* with a lawful order to leave a premise simply because *another* person did not comply.

The dash 1 amendment further confuses the issue. It allows a person who has *left* the scene after being ordered to, to be charged with a felony if the charged person “had knowledge” that “at least one” of the occupying persons remained on the premise for 48 hours, that two of the occupiers had firearms and one of them “displayed” a firearm.

Of course, it’s highly likely that a person who complied and left the premises would later “have knowledge” that these conditions existed if for no other reason than they heard media reports.

Sections (b) and (c) of the dash 1 amendment seem to contradict each other as (b) only requires that *one* person remain on the premises but (c) talks about at least *two* people being armed.

Section (1) of the dash 1 implies that the person being charged had knowledge of the

listed circumstances *at the time* of the “occupation” but sections (b) (c) and (d) seem to indicate that a person could be charged even after leaving if at least one other person did not.

Section (c) requires that two of the occupiers have firearms and section (d) requires that only one occupier has “displayed” a firearm.

The bill is certainly unneeded, but the dash 1 is baffling.

While we do not support anonymous legislation, we can certainly see why no legislator would want their name attached to this bill unless they were long gone from the building.

OFF urges you to draft bills that hold accountable people who are committing crimes, not punish people who comply with the law.