

Thank you, Senator Thatcher, for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Honorables:

Please consider my situation regarding this bill:

I am a 74-year-old widow, living alone on a gravel road 15+ miles from Pendleton (my closest source of law enforcement assistance). My nearest neighbor is out of sight and out of earshot. So, soonest assistance I might be able to receive would be 30 minutes? Not nearly soon enough, at any rate.

If someone wants to come through my door in the middle of the night, without an accessible, workable (as in loaded) firearm, how in the world am I to defend myself from...break-in, assault, robbery, rape? I have a permit for the one firearm I own, but I have to find it, unlock it and load it, in the dark, I believe that I would be totally defenseless and at someone's mercy. Which most likely isn't going to happen, is it?

Here is another likely scenario - a coyote is attacking my new lambs. Throwing rocks probably won't keep him away very long. A gunshot, in him or at least at him, has much more chance of protecting my property. My sheep are a source of income for me.

I would also like to address a limit on the amount of ammunition I am allowed to purchase. There is no reason or logic for such a limit if I am able to save a little of my retirement money on purchasing more. I have been trained in the use of this firearm, and I target practice regularly.

There are no other people living in my home, let alone anyone under 21, or even 18 years old. Why and on what authority can the Oregon legislature leave me in such a life-threatening or property-risk predicament? This omnibus bill leaves me defenseless and, further, contradicts my Second Amendment rights to "keep and bear (any!) arms" as I choose, as long as I am causing no harm to another person.

Very truly yours,
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