



# Crook County

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Date February 6, 2019

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

My name is Seth Crawford and I serve as the Crook County Judge. Jerry Brummer and Brian Barney are Commissioners and the three of us make up the elected body responsible for managing the County government. While we are a traditional rural county, we are also home to multiple large data centers. Many of our residents' livelihoods require access to firearms. Caring for their livestock and crops, feeding their families, and protecting themselves and their families are just some of the reasons that firearms are important to our residents.

We agree with legislators of both parties that innocent people being killed or injured by gun violence is unacceptable. However, legislation being proposed will likely have unintended consequences for the County's residents and their way of life. Many of our ranchers have gun racks in their trucks, just like other tools. To hold them liable if someone steals a gun out of their truck and uses it to commit a crime will have a devastating impact on their ranches and families. There are many differences between the needs of urban and rural areas, and these proposed laws are written from the urban point of view.

In this region of Oregon, firearms are not a luxury. For the people of Crook County they are considered a necessity. We are aware of multiple examples of legislation being proposed this legislative session that could have grave impacts on gun owner's rights. While we believe that these laws infringe on our citizens' constitutional rights, we do not have the authority to decide if these laws are constitutional, or the expertise to make that judgment. That power rests in the hands of the Oregon and U.S. Supreme Courts.

As the highest elected officials in Crook County, it is critically important to safeguard our citizens' constitutional rights. As a rural county, with a small population and many pressing issues, finding adequate resources is a constant challenge. California and Washington have recently enacted sweeping laws regulating firearms, and we fear that similar laws in Oregon could jeopardize our citizens' constitutional rights and way of life. Many rural counties in Oregon with similar concerns, and have reached out to us for support.

We are willing to help lead on these issues, but we need the outside legal and advocacy expertise that your organization offers. Urban legislators have not taken the time to understand the need/use of firearms on rural ranches and farms. Crook County and the state of Oregon need your help. We seek your advice and resources to help us educate

our community and the legislature regarding this important issue. Please let us know if we can count on your help?

We look forward to your response

CROOK COUNTY COURT

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Seth Crawford  
County Judge

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Jerry Brummer  
County Commissioner

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Brian Barney  
County Commissioner