

I am writing you to object to HB-4005. This bill infringes on the second amendment rights of Oregon firearms owners by attempting to criminalize through a labyrinth of laws, ordinances, and administrative rules the ownership and use of firearms by the law-abiding citizens of this State.

The bill singles out the firearms owner and not the true criminal, the thief, for extraordinary penalties. Why target the legal gun owner? I think it has little to do with public safety, but mostly to abridge firearm ownership, which is right under the second amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Of course, the sponsors would say the bill does not outlaw the ownership of firearms, which is true. However, the intent is to make the ownership of firearms so restrictive and onerous as to bludgeon by rule of law the law-abiding firearms owner into hopefully giving up the firearms voluntarily. Therefore, the purpose of the bill is to effectively disarm otherwise law-abiding citizens in direct contradiction to the "shall not infringe" clause of the second amendment. The net beneficiaries of this bill are criminals, who, by definition, don't follow the law, and the State who desires docile, defenseless, and compliant population.

This bill would be analogous to establishing owner penalties being adopted for motor vehicles, knives, or hammers that are stolen and used to injure people or destroy property. Therefore, the focus of the bill should focus on the existing criminal element, those that steal or take, without the owner's authorization rather than the owner.

Thank you for giving my letter due consideration.

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