

Submitter: David Miller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

My name is David, and I am the owner of HighLine Firearms, a locally owned firearms business here in Oregon. I am submitting testimony today in strong opposition to Senate Bill 243.

SB 243 is yet another example of misguided legislation that penalizes law-abiding citizens and small businesses under the guise of promoting safety. The bill proposes additional restrictions on firearm components, including bans on so-called “rapid-fire devices” and standard capacity magazines – devices that are widely used, factory-issued, and essential to the normal function of many legally owned firearms.

Let me be clear: These measures will do nothing to reduce gun violence or make our communities safer. There is no credible data showing that restricting magazine capacity or banning accessories that are already federally regulated will have any effect on criminal activity. In fact, criminals – by definition – do not follow laws, and they will continue to obtain firearms and accessories regardless of what legislation is passed in this building.

Instead, what SB 243 will do is criminalize otherwise law-abiding citizens, restrict constitutionally protected rights, and cripple hundreds of small businesses across Oregon. In my case, the passage of this bill would immediately eliminate a significant portion of my inventory – potentially costing HighLine Firearms hundreds of thousands, if not millions, in annual revenue. This is not unique to my business. Oregon is home to over 2,100 Federal Firearms License (FFL) holders. Will the state be reimbursing us for this loss?

Let’s also not ignore the legal reality. Similar bans – whether on bump stocks or other components – have faced intense scrutiny in federal courts. Several rulings have overturned such restrictions as unconstitutional or improperly enforced. Pushing this bill forward all but guarantees yet another expensive legal battle that the state will lose – again at taxpayer expense.

Rather than passing laws that make headlines but have no real impact on crime, we should be addressing the actual failures of our criminal justice system. District attorneys across Oregon are declining to prosecute existing firearms-related charges. We have tools already in place to address gun crime – the issue is that they’re not being used.

SB 243 is a fear-driven, reactionary bill that undermines constitutional rights, harms

small businesses, and misleads the public into thinking something meaningful is being done. I urge this committee to reject Senate Bill 243 and instead focus on policies that target criminal misuse of firearms, not responsible ownership.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
David Miller
Owner, HighLine Firearms