

Submitter:

Mike West

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

Dear Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I stand in strong opposition to HB 4145 — a bill that goes far beyond implementing what voters remotely approved in Measure 114 and instead erects financial barriers, bureaucratic delays, and unequal treatment under the law.

This bill will:

- Double the permit wait time from 30 days to 60 days. This is not a minor administrative tweak — it is a significant delay that burdens lawful gun purchasers and grants bureaucrats unchecked control over a fundamental right.
- Increase the permit fee from \$65 to as much as \$150. This 130 % fee hike is a de facto tax on lawful gun owners and makes exercising a constitutional right dependent on one's ability to pay.
- Create sweeping exemptions for active and retired law enforcement — including off-duty and recreational use. This is blatant unequal application under the law: two classes of people — government officers and everyone else — will be subject to different standards and restrictions under the same statute.
- Quietly change Measure 114 in ways that voters never authorized. This isn't just "implementing" a ballot measure: it is rewriting it without a public vote and then foisting the changes onto Oregonians with an emergency clause that will make referendum repeal nearly impossible.

HB 4145 is being advanced while Measure 114 itself remains entangled in litigation and uncertainty. That measure was passed by a very narrow margin of about 50.6 %, making it one of the closest ballot initiatives in Oregon history — hardly a mandate for broad legislative changes.

Most troublingly, this bill gives discretionary authority to permit agents without clear, objective standards, opening the door to arbitrary, inconsistent, and discriminatory decisions. Discretion in matters as fundamental as exercising a constitutional right cannot be left to whim or bias.

In effect, HB 4145 stacks the deck against lawful gun owners while carving special privileges for one group of citizens, increases costs and delays, and erodes

accountability — all while bypassing clear voter intent and democratic process.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 4145 in its entirety and protect the rights of Oregonians rather than undermine them.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael L West
St. Helens, Oregon.
Columbia County