

Submitter: Patrick McKenna
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

To the Members of the Oregon House Committee on Judiciary,
Oregon State Legislature:

My name is Patrick McKenna and I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to HB 4145.

I oppose HB 4145 because it creates more barriers for law-abiding Oregonians to exercise a constitutional right and fails to address the real causes of violent crime in our communities. Rather than focusing on enforcement of existing laws, this bill places new burdens on people who obey the law, including increased fees, extended timelines, and expanded discretionary power for officials to deny permits without clear, objective standards.

I am deeply concerned that HB 4145 — in its effort to codify Measure 114 — effectively implements a system that treats lawful gun owners as suspects rather than citizens. Many provisions of this bill shift accountability away from criminals and towards responsible individuals who want to be safe and comply with the law. For example, the extended processing timelines and high associated fees will disproportionately impact those with limited financial resources, creating a two-tiered system where rights are contingent on one's ability to pay.

I also have serious concerns about transparency and public trust in the legislative process surrounding HB 4145. The public was given limited time to engage with this bill, and many of the provisions were not clearly explained before advancing through committee. This rushed process undermines confidence in representative government and gives the appearance that key decisions were made behind closed doors rather than in open dialogue with Oregonians. In a democracy, legislation with such far-reaching effects on civil liberties should be considered openly, with adequate time for public review and input.

Moreover, vague language in the bill grants broad authority to permit agents without sufficient safeguards for due process. There must be clear, objective standards and meaningful avenues for appeal to ensure that individuals are not arbitrarily denied a fundamental right. Without these protections, HB 4145 risks legal challenges and further confusion, not meaningful improvements to public safety.

I urge the Legislature to reconsider advancing HB 4145 in its current form. Any regulation of firearms must strike a balance between public safety and constitutional

rights, and it must be developed through a transparent, inclusive process that respects the voices of all Oregonians. I ask that you focus on real solutions that target criminal behavior rather than creating a system that penalizes law-abiding citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Patrick McKenna
Salem, Oregon