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Cover Letter

Good afternoon Representatives,

My name is Leo MacDonald. I live in Lisbon, CT.

Because of my love of county I spent 22 years in the U.S. Navy.
I also love our Constitution and the men who brought it forth.

Because of weakness in our schools teaching of American History a lot of Americans do not understand the difference between a "democracy" and a "**constitutional republic.**"

Democracy is not an accurate or correct term to describe our form of government. The United States of America is a "**constitutional republic.**" Think of our "Pledge of Allegiance."

The founders understood that the constitution could protect the people by limiting the power of any elected official.

A system of checks and balances was set up to help limit corruption of government and also the potential for an "immoral majority" developing within the American People. We have forgotten that we are ultimately ruled by a constitution.

The second amendment is very clear.

This is the law of this land. So when any elected representative talk about taking our guns, you need to ask this question;

Are they honoring their sworn oath to uphold the constitution?

*A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, **shall not be infringed.***

This is a pretty clear statement.

For those who try to debate the spirit of the 2nd amendment, they are truly no different from people who take Biblical quotes out of context to try to support their immoral decisions.

The founders were very clear on the intent of the 2nd amendment. Let me share a few quick quotes here:

"No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms..."
- Thomas Jefferson

The Constitution shall never be construed...to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.
- Samuel Adams

When these unfortunate incidents like last December happen, the media focuses on the 'gun' and on gun owners.

When, in reality, the focus should be on the perpetrator and/or the society that allows him to stay at large.

We are in a country of 310 million citizens.
However horrid the recent events may be we have to look at the relevance.

With 200 million plus adults a miniscule amount trip off the line.
Compare this with 32,367 highway deaths in the US in 2011.

Whether by a rifle or a truck load of fertilizer (as with timothy McVeigh), people do bad things. You cannot legislate that away.
And passing a 'feel good' law will not cure the criminally insane.

...

But a state mental hospital will minimize their ability to harm and murder our citizens.

Thank you,

/s/ Leo A. MacDonald

Leo A. MacDonald
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Good afternoon Legislators,

I feel that a lot of American citizens do not fully comprehend the differences between a "Right" and a privilege. I blame teachers that are weak on American History and traditional media sources for this mass brainwash and I carry the responsibility of all concerned Americans to tell the truth. So my focus today is to lay out your constitutional rights as an American, and let you decide what to do with those rights.

Lets talk "democracy" - I believe quite a few Americans have been conditioned to use this term. It's not an accurate term and it never has been a correct term to describe our form of government. The truth is that the United States of America is a "**constitutional republic.**" This is similar to a democracy because our representatives are selected by democratic elections, but ultimately our representatives are required to work within the framework of our constitution. In other words, even if 90% of Americans want something that goes against our founding principles, they have no right to call for a violation of constitutional rights.

If you are religious you might choose to think of it this way... Say that members of your congregation decide that mass fornication is a good thing. Do they have the right to change the teachings of your God? The truth is the truth. It doesn't matter how many people try to stray from it. Did I just compare our founders to God? In a way I did, but please note that I am not trying to insult anyone. For the purpose of the American Government our constitution and founders who wrote it are much like God is to believers. It is the law. It is indisputable.

Our founders did not want a "democracy" for they feared a true democracy was just as dangerous as a monarchy. The founders were highly educated people who were experienced in defending themselves against tyranny. They understood that the constitution could protect the people by limiting the power of anyone to work outside of it much better than a pure system of popularity. A system of checks and balances was set up to help limit corruption of government and also the potential for an

"immoral majority" developing within the American People. We have forgotten in this country that we are ultimately ruled by a constitution.

Why is a democracy potentially just as dangerous as a monarchy? Let's look at something that Benjamin Franklin said because it answers that question more fully and succinctly than I can.

*Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch.
Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote.*
- Benjamin Franklin

Even 230+ years ago our founders were perceptive enough to realize that democracy was a dangerous form of government. How so? Because the citizens of a country can become just as corrupt as any government. We have seen evidence of this throughout history. Ask Native Americans and African-Americans if this population can become corrupt.

I think in 2013 we are seeing evidence of what Franklin was trying to tell us. Just because a majority of people may support certain ideas it does not mean that those ideas are just. In simple terms, just because most Americans love our president and voted for him, it does not mean that he has the power to go against our constitutional rights.

Next I'd like to review the text of the second amendment. It is very clear. This is the law of this land. So when Senator Feinstein, or President Obama, or Governor Malloy talk about taking our guns, you need to think about something. Are they honoring their sworn oath to uphold the constitution?

*A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, **shall not be infringed.***

This is a pretty clear statement. The fact is that it took 232 years for the Supreme Court to even rule on this amendment because it has never been successfully challenged. In 2008 a case of *Columbia v. Heller* the Supreme Court ruled that a handgun ban in Washington D.C. was unconstitutional. One also has to take this into consideration. The Supreme Court supports our right to own guns. If you want to research this decision further you can start here.

For those who try to debate the spirit of the 2nd amendment, they are truly no different from people who will try to take Biblical quotes out of context to try to support their immoral decisions. The founders were very clear on the intent of the 2nd amendment. Let me share a few quick quotes here:

"No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms..."

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The Constitution shall never be construed....to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.

– Samuel Adams

This country was built on the right to bear arms. It was built on the rights of an individual to bear arms, regardless of what his government or neighbor happened to think. This is crystal clear. Ironically the people who voice their opinions against this right have their free speech protected by our guns. Without guns in this country, all other amendments become null and void, simply because "We the People" will lose our power of enforcement.

I ask you to keep this in mind as you, our "representatives", push additional gun bans. I don't care if 99% of people are in support of gun bans (which is far from the case); it is a violation of our constitutional rights, plain and simple.

A constitutional republic protects the rights of the individual even when their ideas are very much in the minority. If I were the only person in America who believed in the 2nd amendment, I would still be within my rights to call upon it.

Congress could pass gun ban legislation by a 90%+ margin and it just would not matter. I think some people are very unclear on this. This is the reason we have a Supreme Court, and though I do not doubt that the Supreme Court can also become corrupt, in 2008 they got it right. They supported the constitution. It does not matter what the majority supports because America is not a democracy. A constitutional republic protects the rights of every single citizen, no matter what their "elected servants" say. A majority in America only matters when the constitution is not in play.

I am a believer in the constitution. And I believe the 2ND Amendment was written to protect military grade firearms. Again going back to our history lesson, the British object at Lexington & Concord was to disarm the citizens.

We would not be ruled by a tyrannical government in the 1770's and we should not be ruled in 2013 by a tyrannical government. There is no difference.

This is a case of right and wrong. As of now the 2nd amendment stands. It has never been repealed. I mean no disrespect to our elected officials but if any elected official have a problem with the constitution then they should be removed from office. Or get a history lesson. They are not defending the constitution which they have sworn an oath to protect. It is treasonous to say the least. They would likely say the same about me, but I have the constitution, the founders, and the Supreme Court on my side. They only have their inflated egos.

I would hope that our officials come to realize that our numbers are more then perceived. The great majority of our citizens do support the Constitution, and the 2nd Amendment. We do exist.

Through regulations, taxation, inflation of the money supply, trade restrictions, and tethers on private associations, government itself is nothing but a massive drain on prosperity. The situation has become deeply dangerous for the future of freedom in America, with young people unable to find jobs, opportunities being destroyed in sector after sector, banks and corporations living on the dole, and so many regulations that we are living under something nearly as egregious as Soviet-style central planning.

"Any man who thinks he can be happy and prosperous by letting the government take care of him --- better take a closer look at the American Indian."

- Henry Ford

Thank you,

/s/ Leo A. MacDonald