

3/14/13

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing to discuss the proposed gun control legislation that has been put forth during this current legislative session.

I have a valid Connecticut state issued hunting license. I legally own long guns, and I am a very responsible firearms owner. My firearms were legally purchased at licensed dealers here in the State of Connecticut. Records of the sales have been submitted to the Connecticut Department of Public Safety and my local police authority in my hometown. I have also retained copies of the sales and the authorization numbers for my own personal records.

The requirements for any rifle or shotgun permit need to be based off the current eligibility requirements for long gun possession that are currently in place here in the State of Connecticut. These are the same eligibility requirements that current long gun owners were in compliance with at the time of their lawful purchase, and continue to be in compliance with. If there is a modification in the eligibility requirements for long gun possession, or if the long gun permit is based off modified eligibility requirements which are different than current eligibility requirements, this will ensnarl numerous current legal firearms owners who purchased their long guns lawfully.

I do agree to a certain extent that there should be firearms training provided to our State's legal gun owners. Whether that training is mandatory or voluntary is up for debate. In my particular situation, I received firearms training from the State of Connecticut as part of the requirements for a hunting license. I felt the training class was well run and helped to reinforce safe firearms handling.

If the requirements for a long gun permit are based off the current eligibility requirements for long gun ownership and possession, this would be an equitable outcome for current legal long gun owners and a fair compromise. If the requirements for a long gun permit are modified and are different from the current long gun requirements for possession and ownership, this would ensnarl numerous individuals and this would violate the constitutional rights of individuals who have legally purchased long guns. This would without a doubt lead to numerous lawsuits against the State of Connecticut.

In closing, I respectfully request that any requirement for a long gun permit be based off the current long gun eligibility requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several vertical, slightly wavy lines that are connected at the top and bottom, forming a stylized, somewhat abstract shape.

Matthew Cocco