

Dear Committee Members:

In view, not only of the Newtown massacre but of the continuing carnage in our towns and cities, I hope that the General Assembly will outlaw assault weapons and place severe restrictions on all handguns and other weapons whose only purpose is to take human life.

At the same time, I hope that the General Assembly will begin, at long last, to ensure that the social cost of firearms are borne by the people who use, manufacture and sell them. At the moment, gun and ammunition makers and weapons dealers reap the profits and society as a whole and gun violence victims, in particular, pay the costs. People owning weapons should be required to carry liability insurance on them, and gun sellers and manufacturers should be required to pay into a fund for victims of gun violence. It should not be too hard to estimate the societal costs of guns to our state. We could then impose a series of taxes and fees sufficient to replay society for the losses entailed.

I suspect that if gun fanciers and manufacturers were paying the true cost of these products, that people would be less susceptible to the fear-mongering which encourages the acquisition of ever more powerful weapons and that we would see far fewer guns and hear far less talk about the Second Amendment.

Sincerely,
Janice and Jerry Trecker

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