

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 17, 2009

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

As strong supporters of the Second Amendment, we were very concerned to see your recent remarks suggesting that the administration will push for the reinstatement of the 1994 ban on “assault weapons” and ammunition magazines.

We believe that this ban was ineffective during the 10 years it was law, and would oppose its reenactment. Crime began falling before the ban was passed in 1994, and continued falling during and after the ban. The last time the murder rate was at its current level was more than forty years ago.

Even the Urban Institute study of the ban’s effectiveness mandated by the 103rd Congress found that it could only have a limited effect because “the banned weapons and magazines were never used in more than a modest fraction of all gun murders.”

It is hard to believe the ban would be any more effective in controlling crime by well-funded international drug traffickers, who regularly use grenade launchers, anti-tank rockets and other weapons that are not available on the civilian market in the United States.

The gun control community has intentionally misled many Americans into believing that these weapons are fully automatic machine guns. They are not. These firearms fire one shot for every pull of the trigger. Some of the guns that would be banned under proposed bills have been around for more than 70 years, and are often passed down from generation to generation.

Many of our constituents lawfully own and use these firearms and ammunition magazines that would be affected by a new ban. Indeed, these are commonly owned firearms throughout the country. Law-abiding Americans use these guns for all the same reasons they use any other kind of gun—competitive shooting, hunting, and defending their homes and families.

Our constituents also have very real and serious problems that we in Congress urgently need to address. People are worried about keeping their jobs, paying for their families’ health care, educating their children, and retiring with the kind of security their

parents and grandparents enjoyed. A long and divisive fight over a gun control issue will only distract us from giving these more important issues the attention they deserve.

Again, we would actively oppose any effort to reinstate the 1994 ban, or to pass any similar law. We urge you to abandon this initiative and to focus instead on effective law enforcement strategies to enforce our current laws against violent criminals and drug traffickers.

Sincerely,

Mike Row

T. Holm

Jimmy Costello

Jill Hatten

Samuel Bingham  
Marion Benz

Shad Reese  
Kit Cahall

Ann Gunn

Chet Edwards

Ch D Dodson

Gene Taylor

Rout Lynde

Colin C. Pallen

Harry League

Ann Gunn

Allen Boyd

Di Cely

Eric J. Mass - Steve Kagen, M.D.

Letey Martey

Arthur

Ron Kind

Peter Welch

Leonard L. Buehl

Tim Ryan

Walt Minich

John A. Baccari

Joe Donaghy

Tom Peault

Earl Romeray

Ben Chandler

Mike

Debra Halverson

Travis W. Chidder

W. J. W. H. G.

Phil Toney

Solomon P. Ortiz

Paul E. Kanyouki

Rick Boucher

Mike Mesfityre

Jim Hunt

Burt Gordon

Alan B. Mellor

Adam Davis

John Barrow

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Carl W. R.

Stephanie Heath Sandlin

Tom Altman

John T. Selzer

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Bobby Bright

Jim Brown

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Jim Daniels

Charles Kelso

Christopher P. Cole

R. Parker Griffith

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Jim Marshall

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Brad Ellsworth

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