

HB 2510 Testimony from Philip Westover, Chehalem Mountain, Yamhill County, Oregon.

I am a retired man, living with my wife in a rural part of Yamhill County. As rural as we are, there are about 30 homes located close together, making a target for those who want to burglar our property. Many think that our concern about this is unwarranted. The fact is that those folks are the primary targets for bad people; the ones that leave their residences unlocked or in some condition to "invite" a criminal outsider. All you have to do is read the news to show that criminal activity is on the rise.

For our area, response time for a call to the sheriff's department is estimated at 30-45 minutes. That makes us totally vulnerable to anyone wishing to do harm to our property or us. We must have the ability to easily and quickly access means to protect ourselves. Anyone who knows the tactics of self-protection will know that having to open a safe and release a trigger lock while under a huge amount of pressure to act quickly is a recipe for disaster.

We have grandchildren and family who occasionally visit us. We are diligent in keeping our firearms safe and separated from any outsiders who enter our home. I consider myself to be a lifelong responsible gun owner. I do not want my rights to protect myself and my wife to be taken away, simply because there are other irresponsible people out there.

I oppose any measure to make access to my firearms more difficult, including HB 2510.

Sincerely,

Philip Westover
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