



March 21, 2023

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Michael Smith. I am a resident of Multnomah County and currently serve as Chair of the Gun Owners Caucus of the Democratic Party of Oregon. I write today on behalf of the Gun Owners Caucus to express our opposition to HB 2005 as written.

On March 3rd, the Caucus considered whether to support or oppose several bills before the State Legislature that pertain to firearms. Among these is HB 2005, relating to 3D printed and undetectable firearms. The vote to oppose this bill was unanimous.

We believe the purpose of this bill is to respect the rights of gun owners while preventing persons ineligible to own firearms from evading background checks.

While we support this purpose, we believe that this bill steps on the rights of gun owners in important ways. We urge that this bill be amended to address our concerns.

First, this bill, as written, would immediately make felons of persons who own currently legal self-milled or printed firearms, with no opportunity to right themselves by having their existing firearms serialized. We oppose this on principle. The bill needs to have a grace period for a gunsmith or similar party to issue a serial number to bring a firearm into compliance.

Furthermore, we are concerned that the definition of "receiver" would make criminals out of any person who owns an upper receiver for a longarm that normally carries the serial number on the lower receiver only.

By way of background, there are several firearm designs where the serial number is carried on the lower receiver (which includes the trigger, sear, and hammer, and requires a serial number and a background check) and where it is common practice to swap upper receivers (which include the chamber, barrel, and firing pin, and do not require a serial number or a background check) to change chambering, barrel length, and so on.

We believe this bill, as written, will require a background check for each new upper receiver, and furthermore, will make every upper receiver owned a separate and distinct felony. This is completely unacceptable. If it is not the intention of this bill to make felons out of everyone who owns a modern sporting arm, then this bill needs to be amended in the work session. We recommend making it so that only the lower receiver (which houses the trigger, hammer and sear) requires a serial number and a background check.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Smith, Chair, DPO Gun Owners' Caucus