

Submitter: Derik Smith
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2005

I am opposing HB 2005 for the same reasons that the Oregon Hunters Association, (current member and a member of the Emerald Empire Gun Club).

It's currently a crime to remove the serial number from a manufactured firearm, as well as a crime to use a firearm while committing crimes such as robbery, rape, assault or murder, including felon's in possession of a firearm! From my research, I see most crimes involving firearms when prosecuted have the firearm charges dropped or reduced.

HB2005 will do nothing to reduce gun violence. It appears that the purpose of this bill is to make criminals out of law abiding gun owners in order to make someone feel better about having done something in the name of gun control, not actual gun safety.

It is legal under federal law to make firearms from kits or components. Hunters can buy a kit to make a "homemade" muzzleloader from a store and on the internet without going through a FFL and build it at home for personal use. HB2005 would make this a crime, although we are unaware of anyone using a muzzleloader to commit robbery or mass murder.

Likewise, other firearm parts can be legally acquired under strict federal firearms laws for hobby gun owners to build for their own personal use. It is against federal law to sell or transfer these home built firearms. So HB2005 is not needed or warranted!

Hunters and gun owners have been building their own firearms since the early days of this country. There were no serial numbers. Mass production of firearms didn't begin until sometime in the 1800's, long after the 2nd amendment was adopted. People with the proper skills can build and customize firearms under federal law so long as they are not offered for sale or transfer. This is a hobby that I and my family enjoy. "Ghost guns" are firearms that criminals steal and grind off the serial numbers to prevent them from being identified or traced.

I am opposed to HB2005 as another unnecessary infringement on our 2nd amendment right to keep and bear arms. Has no one in our state government learned anything from the BM 114 debacle. Let's not continue to make life worse with HB2005, which is another unconstitutional attempt to infringe on the constitutional rights lawful gun owners, that will surely end up in the courts, costing the state taxpayers even more money, that need to support our families.

Why doesn't the state promote the prosecution of gangs, drug cartels, and the rest of the criminals who continue to utilize firearms? And maybe we can use the funds that would be wasted on defending HB2005 for hiring more police officers, prosecutors, public defenders, along with mental health professionals to deal with the real issues of crime in Oregon?

It wouldn't hurt to support our law abiding hunters and shooters, considering all of the fees and taxes we currently pay in order to participate in these activities in Oregon.