

Submitter: Steven Wales

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature and Concerned Citizens,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3075-1 and Measure 114, both of which pose significant threats to the constitutional rights, public safety, and economic well-being of Oregonians.

Opposition to HB 3075-1

HB 3075-1 proposes changes that would severely restrict lawful firearm ownership and usage under the guise of public safety. This bill unfairly targets law-abiding citizens while failing to address the root causes of violent crime. Key concerns include:

Infringement on Second Amendment Rights: The restrictions outlined in this bill place unnecessary burdens on responsible gun owners while doing little to deter criminals who do not abide by existing laws.

Negative Impact on Self-Defense: By imposing excessive regulations, the bill limits an individual's ability to protect themselves and their families, particularly in rural areas where law enforcement response times can be prolonged.

Economic Consequences: Stricter regulations on firearm ownership and sales harm small businesses, including firearm retailers, training facilities, and shooting ranges, leading to job losses and decreased state revenue.

Instead of targeting responsible gun owners, Oregon should focus on enforcing existing laws, improving mental health services, and addressing gang-related violence.

Opposition to Measure 114

Measure 114, which introduces a permit-to-purchase system and magazine capacity restrictions, is similarly flawed and impractical. The major concerns are:

Unconstitutional Restrictions: The permit-to-purchase requirement adds an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy that infringes on the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Burden on Law Enforcement: Law enforcement agencies, already stretched thin, will be forced to allocate resources to processing permits instead of focusing on crime prevention.

Disproportionate Impact on Marginalized Communities: Lower-income individuals and minorities may face increased barriers to firearm ownership due to the high costs and bureaucratic delays associated with obtaining a permit.

Ineffectiveness in Reducing Crime: Criminals, by definition, do not follow the law.

Magazine capacity restrictions and permitting requirements do little to prevent violent crime while making it harder for responsible citizens to exercise their rights.

Both HB 3075-1 and Measure 114 impose undue restrictions on law-abiding gun owners while failing to address the actual causes of gun-related crime. I urge lawmakers to reject these ineffective and unconstitutional measures and instead pursue policies that focus on crime prevention, mental health treatment, and law enforcement support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.