

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly oppose Oregon House Bill 3075 (HB3075), a measure that places an unconstitutional and excessive burden on law-abiding Oregonians attempting to exercise their fundamental right to keep and bear arms.

While HB3075 does not outright ban firearm ownership, it imposes such extreme and unreasonable obstacles for purchasing and owning firearms that it makes lawful ownership nearly impossible for the average citizen. The lack of an established permitting system, the impractical and undefined training mandates, and an excessive permitting fee that adds a burden on firearms amount to a de facto ban on the right to keep and bear arms, directly violating the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), *McDonald v. City of Chicago* (2010), and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022) that Americans have an individual right to possess firearms for lawful purposes, including self-defense. Further, the Bruen decision made clear that any firearm regulation must align with the nation's historical tradition. HB3075's sweeping bans, permitting fees, and unreasonable requirements have no historical precedent and would not survive constitutional scrutiny.

One of the most dangerous aspects of HB3075 is that it would retroactively make many commonly owned firearms illegal, turning law-abiding citizens into criminals simply for possessing firearms that were purchased legally under current law. This is an egregious violation of both constitutional rights and basic principles of fairness. These are firearms used for lawful purposes such as self-defense, hunting, and sporting — not tools of crime — yet the bill would criminalize peaceful citizens overnight.

HB3075 mandates that citizens obtain a permit and complete extensive training to exercise their constitutional right to own a firearm yet provides no infrastructure or system to make this possible. There is no clear permitting process, no certified training programs available to meet these undefined standards, and no funding or framework to create them. This makes the requirements impossible to fulfill — and effectively blocks Oregonians from exercising their Second Amendment rights. Further, the training mandates are vague and unrealistic, creating standards that ordinary citizens, especially those in rural communities, would have no way to meet due to lack of resources, instructors, or access. Without a clear, accessible process, these mandates serve only as barriers to prevent lawful gun ownership.

HB3075 proposes significant taxes on both firearms and ammunition, punishing citizens for exercising a constitutional right. The permitting fees put the right to bear arms right out

of reach is as unconstitutional as banning it outright. The Supreme Court has long recognized that a government cannot impose excessive fees or taxes that functionally prevent citizens from exercising constitutional rights, whether it be speech, voting, or gun ownership. This permitting fee disproportionately impacts low-income Oregonians, effectively reserving gun ownership only for the wealthy — a direct violation of equal protection principles.

Another alarming feature of HB3075 is its provision to enforce these extreme measures under a vaguely defined "state of emergency." The government cannot use emergencies as an excuse to strip away constitutional rights — rights that exist precisely to protect citizens in times of crisis. Allowing the state to invoke emergency powers to disarm citizens is a dangerous abuse that sets a precedent for future violations of civil liberties.

Article I, Section 27 of the Oregon Constitution guarantees: "The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defense of themselves, and the State." By making common firearms illegal, imposing impossible requirements without any system to fulfill them, and adding crushing fees, HB3075 violates Oregon's own constitution and the explicit rights of its people.

HB3075 is not a public safety bill — it is a dangerous assault on the constitutional rights of every Oregonian. By criminalizing many currently owned firearms, creating impossible barriers to purchasing new ones, imposing heavy taxes, and abusing "emergency" powers, this bill would effectively disarm the public while leaving criminals unaffected. I urge you to reject HB3075 and stand for the rights and safety of law-abiding citizens.

Respectfully,

Christopher Doukas  
Vale, Oregon