

Submitter: Kemp Larsen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 4076, a measure that would impose additional fees on gun dealers and subject them to state inspections. While I understand the intent to enhance public safety, this bill places an undue burden on law-abiding small business owners and responsible gun dealers who are already navigating a complex regulatory landscape. I urge you to consider the practical and economic consequences of this legislation, as well as its potential to infringe on the rights of Oregonians who depend on these businesses.

First, the additional fees proposed in HB 4076 would unfairly target gun dealers, many of whom operate on thin margins as small, family-owned businesses. These fees represent yet another financial strain in an industry already subject to federal licensing costs, compliance requirements, and economic challenges. For rural dealers, in particular, these added costs could force closures, reducing access to firearms for law-abiding citizens who rely on these local businesses for hunting, sport shooting, and self-defense. Rather than enhancing safety, this could inadvertently create "firearm deserts" in parts of Oregon, disproportionately affecting those outside urban centers.

Second, the introduction of state inspections on top of existing federal oversight by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is redundant and unnecessary. Gun dealers in Oregon are already required to maintain meticulous records, conduct background checks, and comply with regular ATF inspections. Adding a layer of state bureaucracy does not address any clear gap in enforcement; instead, it risks creating confusion, inconsistency, and additional compliance costs. If the goal is to target "bad actors," existing laws—both state and federal—already provide tools to penalize those who violate regulations. HB 4076 casts too wide a net, punishing the compliant majority rather than focusing on the few who break the law.

Finally, this bill sends a discouraging message to Oregonians who value their Second Amendment rights and the state's rich tradition of responsible gun ownership. By piling on fees and inspections, HB 4076 could deter new dealers from entering the market and drive existing ones out, limiting options for lawful firearm purchases. This not only undermines the economic freedom of entrepreneurs but also chips away at the practical exercise of a constitutional right.

I respectfully ask you to reject House Bill 4076 and instead focus on enforcing current laws that target actual sources of crime, not law-abiding businesses.

Oregon's gun dealers are not the problem—they are part of our communities, contributing to our economy and heritage. Let's support them, not burden them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.