

Honorable members of the Oregon House Judiciary committee, I am writing to oppose HB 3076, specifically, the 3076-1 amendment.

I find it disrespectful that the 22-page amendment to this bill was posted less than 24 hours before the public hearing, allowing little time for public comment and analysis. Including the emergency clause in the bill adds insult to injury and demonstrates the contempt that you feel for those you serve.

This bill creates unnecessary and redundant regulation for firearms dealers. Dealers are already heavily regulated at the federal level. The vast majority of current dealers deny and report suspicious sales to the ATF or FBI. Were any dealers interviewed before this legislation was drafted? Did you research the federal licensing requirements and inspection processes?

There are currently 2,152 FFLs (Federal Firearms Licenses) in Oregon. HB 3076-1 would require the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) to inspect each FFL annually. That's almost nine FFLs per day, which would require several full-time equivalent (FTE) employees to complete the workload. The DOJ employees' time would be better spent conducting criminal investigations rather than inspecting firearm dealers who are engaged in lawful commerce.

Many dealers will be unable to afford the compliance cost of HB 3076-1 and be forced to close their businesses. It is likely that this bill would result in well over 1,000 people losing their jobs for no reason. The bill won't prevent the flow of firearms to criminals who misuse them.

Firearms trafficking is already a federal crime. Why not dedicate the resources that would be diverted by this bill to prosecute traffickers under existing law? Don't make the firearms dealers pay for the criminal actions of a tiny minority who choose to break the law. Vote no on HB 3076-1!

Earl Hixson, Ph.D.