

Submitter: Sean Johnson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

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To the Members of the Oregon State House of Representatives

Oregon State Capitol

900 Court St NE

Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Opposition to House Bill 3076-1

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3076-1, which directs the Department of Justice to study the establishment of a state gun dealer licensing program. While the stated intent may appear benign, I am deeply concerned that this legislation lays the groundwork for unnecessary and burdensome regulations on law-abiding gun dealers and, by extension, infringes upon the rights of Oregonians who exercise their Second Amendment freedoms. As a [resident/business owner/concerned citizen—insert your role], I urge you to reconsider this bill and its potential consequences.

First, Oregon's gun dealers are already subject to rigorous federal oversight by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Federal Firearms License (FFL) holders must comply with extensive background checks, record-keeping requirements, and regular inspections. Adding a state-level licensing program risks duplicating these efforts, creating redundancies that impose additional

costs and bureaucratic hurdles on small businesses without demonstrably improving public safety. Studies, such as those commissioned by the ATF, consistently show that licensed dealers are not the primary source of firearms used in crimes—those more often stem from illegal trafficking or theft. Why, then, burden lawful dealers with further regulation?

Second, the implications of HB 3076-1 extend beyond a mere study. The history of similar legislative efforts in other states suggests that such studies often serve as a precursor to restrictive policies. For example, requirements like mandatory Oregon residency for dealers (as speculated in public discourse) could exclude reputable out-of-state businesses, such as Sportsman's Warehouse, that operate legally under federal law and contribute to Oregon's economy. This not only limits consumer choice but also threatens jobs and tax revenue in our state.

Third, I am concerned about the lack of clarity in the bill's scope and intent. Without specific guardrails, the "study" could recommend measures that disproportionately affect rural communities, where access to firearms for hunting, sport, and self-defense is a way of life. Oregonians deserve transparency about how this study will be conducted, who will oversee it, and how its findings might be weaponized to erode our constitutional rights.

Finally, as a matter of principle, I believe this bill represents an overreach of state authority into a domain already well-regulated by federal law. The Second Amendment, as affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in cases like *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022), protects the individual right to keep and bear arms. Any step toward additional state-level restrictions—however incremental—undermines that right and signals distrust in law-abiding citizens and businesses.

I respectfully urge you to vote against HB 3076-1. Instead of pursuing policies that penalize the lawful exercise of rights, Oregon's legislature should focus on addressing the root causes of crime, such as mental health challenges and illegal firearms trafficking, which do not originate with licensed dealers. Let us protect our freedoms and support our communities without adding unnecessary layers of government oversight.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am happy to discuss my concerns further and can be reached at (503) 930-5883 or nwpg@msn.com.

Sincerely,

Sean Johnson

Owner of Blue Ridge Precision & Training