



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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February 26, 2019

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Chair Senator Floyd Prozanski
Vice-Chair Senator Kim Thatcher
Committee Members

RE: SB 501 – Firearm Legislation

The City of Prineville has recently received a significant amount of feedback from our constituents concerned with recent proposed firearm legislation. Prineville is the only incorporated city in Crook County which is a large county by area, with only approximately 21,000 residents. Even though Prineville has become home to both Apple and Facebook data centers, we are still very dependent upon resource based industries such as farming and ranching.

Our community and it's leaders are fully committed to the safety of our citizens, and find the loss of human life from gun violence unacceptable. Further, we can support practical gun control measures, and investment into background work being done to keep firearms out of the hands of those who intend harm.

Our community is very concerned that firearm legislation recently proposed will have negative ramifications for many in our community and throughout rural Oregon.

For many of our folks who are in the ranching and farming business owning a firearm is not unlike owning a welder, or a piece of farm equipment. Both are dangerous tools that must be used carefully, and responsibly, but are necessary. Combining the practical need with our rural culture, gun ownership is important to our citizens. The Constitutional right to bear arms is held in high regard with many here in Crook County.

We recognize the needs and perspectives of Oregonians living in large urban areas may differ from those of us in rural Oregon, and therefore, we are asking for you to consider our needs as well. We are asking for your help in keeping firearm legislation practical for all Oregonians, preserve our Constitutional right to bear arms, focus on root cause solutions for gun violence, and avoid over-reaching legislation that burdens responsible citizen firearm ownership.

Respectfully,

Stephen P. Uffelman
City of Prineville Mayor

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