

May 6, 2021

Senator Robert Myers  
Room 510  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Myers,

The Alaska Outdoor Council supports SB 136 – Limitations on Firearms Restrictions.

Since it's founding before Alaska statehood the AOC has been a supporter of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights. Our membership – 10,000 Alaskans and 45 groups and clubs – hunts, fishes, traps, shoots, hikes, camps, sleds, explores and recreates on Alaska's public lands and often find themselves in need of a firearm. To those of us who live the Alaska outdoor lifestyle, the ability to protect ourselves, or harvest wild food, is essential.

Over time, we have been disappointed by the willingness of some to treat the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment differently than other freedoms guaranteed in our Bill of Rights. Even though it was the states that insisted on a Bill of Rights at our nations' founding, some states are leading the effort to diminish the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. In the event that our federal courts agree and grant states the power to regulate aspects of firearm ownership or use, Alaska should be ready. SB 136 establishes state policy on firearms restrictions with clear, concise and defensible language.

There is also a more current imperative for SB 136. Anchorage COVID Emergency Order 03, termed the "hunker down", issued on March 20, 2020, ordered that people "shall stay at home" and that businesses must close, unless they were deemed "critical".

The EO listed a number of businesses that the mayor deemed "critical" but firearms retailers were not on the list. This created confusion for Anchorage residents and retailers alike. Recall that this was during a time when there were interruptions in the food supply chain. The duress and anxiety this caused those of us who rely on wild food harvest was considerable, and

unnecessary. It was also during a time of an elevated need for personal protection, which on it's own should have allowed unquestioned access to firearms and ammunition retailers.

Again, SB 136 establishes the policy and answers the questions citizens or governments may have about 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights.

Thank you for introducing SB 136. It's passage should be a priority this session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Arno". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rod" and last name "Arno" clearly distinguishable.

Rod Arno

Public Policy Director

Alaska Outdoor Council