From: Laura Fleming
To: House State Affairs; Rep. Laddie Shaw; Rep. Stanley Wright; Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Jamie Allard; Rep. Jennie Armstrong; Rep. Andi Story
Subject: HB 61, Limitations on Firearms Restrictions
Date: Monday, April 10, 2023 8:20:35 AM

>> Thank you for scheduling a hearing on HB 61. Limitations on Firearms Restrictions. I appreciate the opportunity to offer written testimony on this proposal.
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>> I share with many long-time Alaskans a strong support for the U.S. Constitution and the Alaska Constitution, and also share with many Alaskans across our great state the commitment to responsible use and storage of firearms. Our Alaska Constitution is well crafted, and vests strong authority in the executive, giving our Governor strong authority. One of my objections to this proposed legislation is that it seeks to undermine the Governor's authority, and for the flimsiest of reasons. The Governor should not have limitations of this kind put on his or her ability to ensure public safety and maintain the peace during a state of emergency or natural disaster. In fact, this bill would not only limit the Governor, but also state and municipal government agencies and officials, potentially inhibiting their abilities to support disaster response and protect public safety in the process.
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>> I find particularly repugnant the provisions to make it possible for an "injured party" (which at first blush looks like it could include any organization from anywhere with two or more members that is gung-ho about promoting firearms) to be granted standing to file civil suits against the state, and recover punitive damages. Surely only actual individuals and/or businesses in Alaska that would have been affected should be granted such standing, and then only for actual damages.
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>> I hope that the House State Affairs Committee will consider its obligations to the House and the public to have been discharged by holding this hearing and that the bill is allowed to move no further. Thank you for your consideration.
>> Laura Fleming
>> Juneau, Alaska

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