From: Tom Boutin
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 61
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:52:12 AM

Good morning,

HB 61 was moved from C&RA this morning. I very much support HB 61 and therefore urge you to look at this bill as soon as possible. Firearms are not a second class right. All of the rights recognized in the Bill of Rights (not granted, of course, but recognized) are equal, but the right to keep and bear arms is almost alone in always being under assault. Therefore HB 61 is needed both from the standpoints of utility and practicality, but it's also as a signal to those states and those elected officials that would restrict and, if allowed, seize the firearms of law-abiding Alaskans.

A fairly large group of elected officials, including a few in Alaska, and powerful interest groups continually attempt to restrict the right to keep and bear arms. President Biden frequently says he wants to ban all 9 mm firearms and ammunition (a cartridge I hardly ever shoot but load for a few people, especially during the time of shortage, which now seems to be ending), all semi-auto firearms, and so-called assault rifles (a term that has no clear definition). However, it's very clear that the US Constitution recognizes that firearms are most needed at the very times HB 61 most addresses.

The people who insisted on the Bill of Rights – demanded it be written – had not recently returned from a hunting trip: They were building a nation that they had just established by revolution. The entire world still benefits from that revolution, and from the wisdom of those 18th century people, every day.

If the House State Affairs Committee has a list of people who would like to be contacted when HB 61 is scheduled for a hearing please put my name on that list. Thank you.

Thank you very much for the hard work you and your staffers do for all Alaskans, and thank you to your families who make sacrifices so you can be in Juneau. Honestly, there is much in the news every day that could discourage anyone, but your good work and your sacrifices made on behalf of all Alaskans easily overwhelm those forces of discouragement.

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