



December 6, 2021

To: House Ways and Means Committee

From: Rex Gore, President & CEO, Blackwing Shooting Center

Re: HB 471

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Although I am unable to testify in person for the hearing of this bill, I wanted to submit my thoughts and support as follows.

I support the removal of sales and use tax on firearms and ammunition sold in the state of Ohio as outlined in HB 471. While other items and services supported by our Bill of Rights aren't taxable, firearms and ammunition are unfairly taxed. It is my understanding that several other states have taken steps to remove sales tax, which makes total sense.

By eliminating the sales tax, Ohio firearm businesses would potentially benefit with increased sales, which would allow our industry to employ more people and provide more support to their local communities. Additionally, Ohio would benefit from the increased CAT (Commercial Activity Tax) and would collect more in State Income Tax if business revenues increased.

By eliminating the sales tax, purchases of firearms and ammunition would be more affordable for our customers, allowing them to enjoy the shooting sports more frequently and or to obtain the necessary equipment and training to protect themselves and their families in these uncertain times.

Historically, we have lost a significant amount of firearm sales due to Ohio's high sales tax. Customers buying expensive firearms can easily buy from out of state dealers, eliminating the tax, and then have the firearm transferred in through an Ohio dealer where all necessary ATF paperwork is completed.

For all the above reasons, I support HB 471, and ask this committee to approve it quickly.