

REV. TIM J. SMITH

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March 5, 2023

Ohio House of Representatives
For the Members of the Government Oversight Committee
The Honorable Bob Peterson, Chairman

**To Chairman Peterson and the Committee,
In regard to Testimony in support of HB 51**

I write today in support of the Second Amendment Protection Act. This act is needed due to increasing calls within the federal government for unconstitutional restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms. Ohio officials and law enforcement personnel should not be subjected to possible prosecution by overzealous U.S. attorneys for not enforcing illegal and unconstitutional edicts from Washington.

As you know, any infringement of our right to arms is forbidden by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This restriction on the government is clearly articulated there when reading it within the historical context and in a reasonable and plain interpretive manner. More specifically, the states and their citizens are not subject to federal action lacking authorization by an enumerated Constitutional power of the U.S. government. This doctrine is the charter for state's rights. Again, a plain reading of the document makes this clear (the 10th Amendment):

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

The matter is as simple as this question: Will we continue to be a nation of laws, or a nation of men? As the Constitution is the supreme law of the land, men and women must stand together against special pleading, emotional arguments, and federal power grabs. We are Ohioans, not subjects of a king far away in Washington! Some politicians want to seem like they are "doing something" about gun violence. These men and women need to ask themselves – Do I want to stop crime, or do I want to restrict lawful access to weapons in common use? For the choice is truly this stark. And the latter of the two approaches has been demonstrated time and again to have no discernible impact on the commission of crimes.

The time to be concerned about federal infringement is also the time to put a stop to this infringement. I strongly call upon you to act in defense of Ohio's law enforcement and Ohio's citizens. I urge you to preempt a situation in which Ohioans will be deemed felons by some injudicious and capricious act or rule emanating from the bowels of the D.C. bureaucracy.

With all good wishes, I am sincerely yours,
(The Rev.) Tim J. Smith