

September 26, 2023

Chairman Roemer and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I write on behalf of the members of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc (NSSF) in support of House Bill 189. NSSF is the firearm industry trade association and the owner of SHOT Show, which is the nation's largest trade show devoted to the shooting, hunting, and outdoor industry. The firearm industry currently creates over 15,000 jobs in Ohio and has an annual economic impact of over \$2.5 billion in the state. I join you in support of this bill for two primary reasons.

First, law-abiding Americans should never have to pay a tax to exercise a fundamental Constitutional right. Newspapers are already tax exempt on First Amendment grounds. The legislature has an opportunity to show that it considers the Second Amendment to be a first-class right by eliminating the sales tax on firearms and ammunition as well, as they are undisputedly necessary to the exercise of Second Amendment Rights.

Second, Ohio has an opportunity with this type of legislation to attract firearm industry businesses and jobs to the state. In 2008, 166,000 Americans were employed by the firearm industry. In 2022, that number stood at 393,000. In addition to being a growing industry, our industry has seen significant movement in recent years. In the past decade, dozens of major firearm manufacturers have left states like New York and Connecticut to move to states where their contributions will be more appreciated. Recently, Smith & Wesson Inc. moved its headquarters from Massachusetts to Tennessee, where it will create 750 jobs. Remington Firearms recently moved its headquarters and nearly 900 from New York to Georgia.

With HB 189, the legislature has an opportunity to stand up for Second Amendment Rights of Ohioans and to make the state more competitive in recruitment and economic development. Thanks to Representative Cutrona for introducing the bill and to the committee for hearing it.

Respectfully,



Christopher Lee

NSSF – The Firearm Industry Trade Association

The Firearm Industry Creates Jobs in Ohio

Ohio companies that manufacture, distribute, and sell sporting firearms, ammunition, and supplies are an important part of the state's economy. Manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, and supplies, along with the companies that sell and distribute these products, provide well-paying jobs in Ohio and pay significant amounts in tax to the state and Federal governments.

The Economic Impact of the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Industry in Ohio

	Direct	Supplier	Induced	Total
Jobs (FTE)	7,108	3,793	4,605	15,506
Wages	\$271,364,000	\$278,767,200	\$246,949,600	\$797,080,800
Economic Impact	\$791,224,500	\$964,368,800	\$776,073,200	\$2,531,666,500

The Firearm & Ammunition Industry is an Important Part of Ohio's Economy

Companies in Ohio that manufacture, distribute, and sell firearms, ammunition, and hunting equipment employ as many as 7,108 people in the state and generate an additional 8,398 jobs in supplier and ancillary industries. These include jobs in supplying goods and services to manufacturers, distributors, and retailers, and those that depend on sales to workers in the firearm and ammunition industry.¹

These are good jobs paying an average of \$51,400 in wages and benefits. And today, every job is important. The state currently has an unemployment rate of 4.2 percent. This means that there are already 243,800 people trying to find jobs in the state and collecting unemployment benefits.²

The Economic Benefit of the Industry Spreads Throughout the State

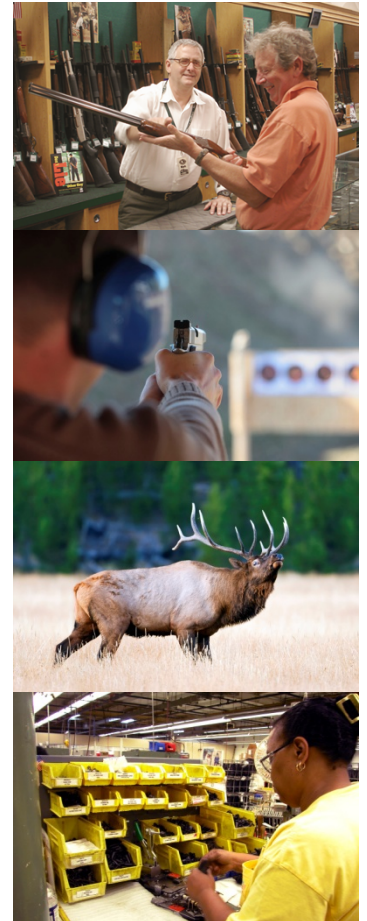
Not only does the manufacture and sale of firearms and hunting supplies create good jobs in Ohio, but the industry also contributes to the economy as a whole. In fact, in 2022 the firearm and ammunition industry was responsible for as much as \$2.53 billion in total economic activity in the state.

The broader economic impact flows throughout the economy, generating business for firms seemingly unrelated to firearms. Real people, with real jobs, working in industries as varied as banking, retail, accounting, metal working, even in printing, all depend on the firearm and ammunition industry for their livelihood.

The State Also Benefits From the Taxes Paid By The Industry

Not only does the industry create jobs, it also generates sizeable tax revenues. In Ohio, the industry and its employees pay over \$269.19 million in taxes including property, income, and sales based levies.³

Taxes Generated in Ohio		
Tax Impact	Business Taxes	Excise Taxes
Federal Taxes	\$160,168,800	\$55,883,700
State Taxes	\$109,016,400	
Total Taxes	\$269,185,200	\$55,883,700



¹ John Dunham & Associates, Florida, December 2022. Direct impacts include those jobs in firearms and ammunition manufacturers, as well as companies that manufacture products such as ammunition holders and magazines, cases, decoys, game calls, holsters, hunting equipment, scopes, clay pigeons and targets. Direct impacts also include those resulting from the wholesale distribution and retailing of these products.

² The Bureau of Labor Statistics. Available online at: www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm. Data for Dec.-2022.

³ This is in addition to over \$55.88 million in federal excise taxes per Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.