

December 7, 2021

Chairman Merrin 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 471. 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 12,000 jobs in Ohio and has an annual economic impact of over \$1.7 billion on 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. The West Virginia legislature recognized that this past year when they eliminated their state sales tax on guns and ammunition. Ohio already created a sales tax exemption for newspapers 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.

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 2020, the number of Americans employed in our industry was at 342,000. That amazing growth is expected to continue when the 2021 data comes out because firearm sales have shattered records in the past two years, with 11.6 million Americans becoming new gun owners between January 2020 and July 2021. In addition to being a growing industry, our industry has seen significant movement in recent years. In the past decade, dozens of large firearm industry companies have left states like New York and California to move to states where their contributions will be more appreciated. This October, [Smith & Wesson Inc. announced](#) that its headquarters will be moved from Massachusetts to Tennessee, where it will create 750 jobs. Just last month, [Remington Firearms announced](#) that their headquarters and nearly 900 jobs will be moved from New York to Georgia.

With HB 471, 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 Rep. Cutrona for introducing the bill and to the committee for hearing it.

Respectfully,



Christopher Lee

National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.