

May 26, 2021

Chairman Shane Wilkin 77 South High Street 13th Floor Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Wilkin and Members of the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee,

My name is Rex Gore and I am the President & CEO of Black Wing Shooting Center located in Delaware Ohio, a firearm industry business. I urge you to support House Bill 297, a bill to protect the Second Amendment rights of Ohioans by adding a provision in government contracts that requires companies seeking the contract to not have policies of discrimination against the firearm industry and Second Amendment. Black Wing is a retail firearms & sporting goods business, which also provides firearms training along with pistol, rifle & shotgun ranges. We have been in business in Ohio for almost 20 years and currently employ 35 people.

We are proud to be able to serve Ohioans that wish to exercise their Second Amendment rights, but our ability to do so continues to be threatened regularly by financial institutions, insurance companies, marketing companies, media companies, and other big corporations that discriminate against our industry. We have been denied service from Banks and credit card processing companies, simply because we sell firearms. Additionally, very few insurance companies will underwrite our industry, causing our premiums to be extraordinarily high. Multiple media companies (TV, radio, billboard, and social media platforms) have refused us service and or continue to disallow, limit, or censor what we can promote.

Our business is heavily regulated by federal, state, and local laws. We are a law-abiding business that serves law-abiding Ohioans. I again urge you to support House Bill 297, because Ohio taxpayers shouldn't be supporting big corporations that seek to do away with the Second Amendment rights of Ohioans.

Sincerely, Rex A Gore President & CEO