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20TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3220

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Chris Cox
Executive Director
NRA-ILA
11250 Waples Hill Road
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Chris,

Thank you again for meeting with me before the August recess. Even though we discussed many of my positions regarding 2nd amendment issues, I wanted to provide you with a more full description of my beliefs on this issues.

To begin with, I want to be very clear that I always have and always will believe that the correct interpretation of the 2nd amendment is that it applies to an individual's right to carry guns, and does not apply generally to the National Guard or a group of individuals in a State. Moreover, I do not believe that public housing authorities should have the right to ban firearms by people living in their homes. Not only is this discriminatory, but it violates the rights of the citizens living in their homes.

On the question of outright banning certain firearms for cosmetic features, bullets of an random size, or banning magazines holding an arbitrary number of cartridges, I am adamantly opposed and do not believe that laws should be based on random limits just for the sake of limiting gun ownership or usage. Furthermore, the attempt to limit the purchase of firearms to arbitrary time periods – such as “one-gun-a-month” – will not solve any crimes and will only curtail the Constitutional rights of law abiding citizens. I share your concerns about these and other attempts to that could contribute to the slippery slope of government confiscation of people's firearms based on the arbitrary whims of politics and public opinion.

In addition, the development of “smart guns” that can only be fired by their owner is an intriguing idea, but I am afraid that mandating such technologies will harm consumers' ability to use their guns in emergency situations.

I was also a proud co-signer of the amicus brief submitted to the Supreme Court during the trial between the District of Columbia v. Heller and I was pleased that the Court correctly stood up for gun owners throughout the District by striking down the

unconstitutional firearms restrictions. Additionally, I am a proud sponsor of HR 6691 – The Second Amendment Enforcement Act, a bill to ensure that the DC City Council can not continue to pass legislation to keep legal firearms out of the hands of law abiding citizens.

Furthermore, I support the “Tiahrt Amendment” provisions and will continue to vote to prevent disclosure of firearms trace data for non-law enforcement purposes.

Lastly, I agree with the NRA that sportsmen should be allowed to hunt on federally-owned lands and that we need to do all we can to create more hunting lands. I even authored an amendment to the Farm Bill to provide matching grants to local communities that want to buy land to provide to sportsmen and women.

I appreciate the work that the NRA does to protect gun owners rights and I look forward to working with you for many years in Congress.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Member of Congress