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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1009

February 26, 2015

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CREATIVE RIGHTS CAUCUS

The Honorable B. Todd Jones  
Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives  
99 New York Avenue, NE  
Room 5S 144  
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Director Jones:

We write to express our opposition to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' (BATFE's) recently proposed framework for expanding the "armor-piercing" (AP) ammunition ban. On February 13, 2015, BAFTE issued a framework "for determining whether certain projectiles are 'primarily intended for sporting purposes' within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(17)(C)."

Congress included the commonsense "sporting purposes" exemption in the 1986 Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act, which served the dual purposes of targeting handgun ammunition intended to pierce body armor and protecting law-abiding citizens' right to keep and bear arms. This exemption has served our nation well for nearly 30 years.

Under the guise of interpreting a provision of the Gun Control Act of 1968, the BAFTE framework all but interprets the "sporting purposes" exemption out of law. The framework cannot reasonably be considered a clarification of the "sporting purposes" exemption when it essentially undercuts the entire purpose of the exemption. To us, the framework appears to be nothing but a brazen attempt to bypass Congress and the American people to enact President Obama's gun control agenda.

Last year, many of us heard from constituents affected by BATFE's sudden decision to include 7N6 rifle ammunition in the AP ammunition ban. The framework makes clear your agency's belief that 7N6 is just one of numerous varieties of rifle ammunition that should be off-limits to sportsmen.

While we share your commitment to protecting law enforcement officers from ammunition designed and wielded to cause them harm, we are not willing to allow your agency to circumvent the legislative process by unilaterally banning ammunition primarily suitable for sporting purposes.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you address the following questions in order to better understand your agency's position on this matter.

- Since the “sporting purposes” exemption has existed for nearly 30 years, why is a new interpretation necessary? What makes the creation of this framework a priority for BATFE?
- Can your agency demonstrate any increase in gun violence in which crimes have been committed with 7N6 ammunition and/or ammunition currently considered legal under the “sporting purposes” exemption?
- What stakeholder input did BATFE consider when crafting this framework?
- How does BATFE intend to protect ordinary rifle ammunition owned by law-abiding citizens from being swept up in this ban?

We thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



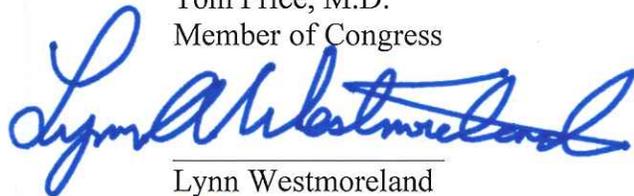
Doug Collins  
Member of Congress



Tom Price, M.D.  
Member of Congress



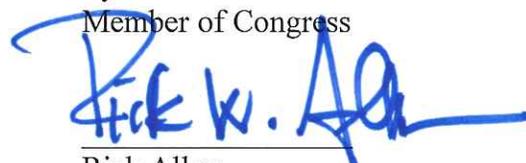
Tom Graves  
Member of Congress



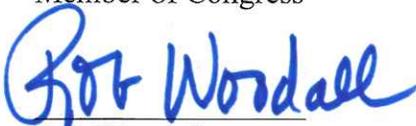
Lynn Westmoreland  
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Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



Rick Allen  
Member of Congress



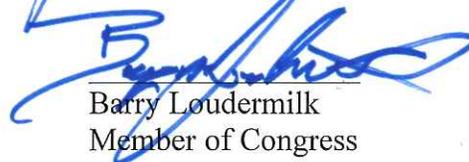
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Earl L. “Buddy” Carter  
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