



May 18, 2016

Honorable Senator Mike Morrell
Honorable Senator Richard Roth
Honorable Senator Jeff Stone
California State Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA

Subject: AB 156, AB 1135, SB 1235 & SB 880 - Opposed

Dear State Senators representing Riverside County:

It is my understanding that the California Senate is scheduled to consider a number of firearms bills tomorrow or in the near future; AB 156, AB 1135, SB 1235, and SB 880. I oppose these four bills cited above.

Assembly Bill 156 and Senate Bill 1235 would mandate background checks on ammunition purchases and require those selling ammunition to apply for and pay for an "ammunition vendor" license. Such ammunition purchases would also be logged into a database known as the Ammunition Purchase Records File maintained by the Department of Justice and kept for up to two years.

Both of those bills would place unjustified and burdensome restrictions on the purchase of ammunition and would require the attorney general to keep records of purchases. This legislation would also require any online ammunition sales to be conducted through a licensed vendor. The reporting of ammunition sales has already been tried - and failed - at the federal level and have no particular value to our local law enforcement. Both of these proposed bills will fail to reduce violent crime, as a law requiring honest citizens to register each and every ammunition purchase plainly will not deter any of our criminals.

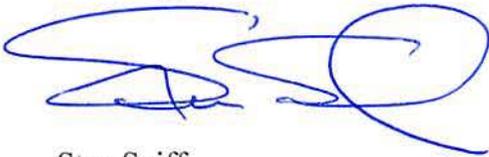
Assembly Bill 1135 and Senate Bill 880 would radically expand California's current definition of "assault weapon," banning many popular semi-automatic firearms currently legal under California law while doing nothing to keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

These two bills would make monumental changes to California's firearm laws by reclassifying without warning hundreds of thousands of legally-owned semi-automatic rifles as "assault weapons" - and creating potentially hundreds of thousands of new criminals for simply owning some of our nation's most popular target, hunting and recreational shooting sports rifles - and already obey our rules and state laws. These are constitutionally protected firearms that have no association with crime.

These changes would happen quickly with great individual costs to many law-abiding gun owners or create untold thousands of "new felons" in a State already committed to supporting AB 109 Realignment and reducing the seriousness of non-violent crimes, while reeling from overcrowded local jails and state prisons. Our Governor vetoed similar legislation in 2013.

For these reasons, as Sheriff of Riverside County, I oppose these bills and request a "no" vote on any that come before you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stan Sniff", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Stan Sniff
Sheriff, Riverside County

CC: Riverside County Legislators
CSSA