

Written Testimony of Jack Sossoman

Before the

Federal and State Affairs Committee of the Kansas House of Representatives

February 19, 2013

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to share my perspective on HB 2199 – The Second Amendment Protection Act. I do not own a handgun, nor do I own a rifle, but I strongly support, first the Constitution of the United States of America and its Amendments and then those laws of our land based on the Constitution. This document is sacred and one that many millions of our mothers, fathers, and fellow Americans have lived and died for in their belief of keeping us free from tyranny. Yes, the fear of a tyrannical government is why the Second Amendment was written.

There will be testimony today on why we should be free to own and carry guns for our protection without the burdens of an oppressive federal government restricting the use and ownership of guns. Many of these restrictions and regulations will be unconstitutional, i.e., the purpose of this bill to limit that power. I believe this bill should go forward to passage in order to limit those overreaching powers. In this testimony, I want to make you aware of another ramification of this intrusion into our Second Amendment right. New York has already passed laws similar to what the federal government would like to implement and probably eventually will. Let's check out the fallout of New York's legislation.

In their disappointment with the New York State lawmakers and other jurisdictions around the country that have passed strict gun control legislation, firearm manufacturers, gunsmiths, and sporting goods retailers have announced new policies in the past two weeks:

Their various statements emphasize that such laws create a class of government employees with rights and a class of citizens without rights. Thus, they refuse to aid the enforcement of such inequality. The following announcements are a shortened version of each of these companies' news release:

*LaRue Tactical – Leander, TX*

Effective today, in an effort to see that no legal mistakes are made by LaRue Tactical and/or its employees, we will apply all current State and Local Laws (as applied to civilians) to state and local law enforcement / government agencies. In other words, LaRue Tactical will limit all sales to what law-abiding citizens residing in their districts can purchase or possess.

### ***Olympic Arms – Olympia, WA***

Due the passing of this legislation, Olympic Arms would like to announce that the State of New York, any Law Enforcement Departments, Law Enforcement Officers, First Responders within the State of New York, or any New York State government entity or employee of such an entity - will no longer be served as customers.

In short, Olympic Arms will no longer be doing business with the State of New York or any governmental entity or employee of such governmental entity within the State of New York - henceforth and until such legislation is repealed, and an apology made to the good people of the State of New York and the American people.

### ***Extreme Firepower Inc, LLC – Inwood, WV***

The Federal Government and several states have enacted gun control laws that restrict the public from owning and possessing certain types of firearms. Law-enforcement agencies are typically exempt from these restrictions. EFI, LLC does not recognize law-enforcement exemptions to local, state, and federal gun control laws. If a product that we manufacture is not legal for a private citizen to own in a jurisdiction, we will not sell that product to a law-enforcement agency in that jurisdiction.

### **Templar Custom - Apex, North Carolina**

We will not sell arms to agents of the state of New York that hold themselves to be "more equal" than their citizens.

As long as the legislators of New York think they have the power to limit the rights of their citizens, in defiance of the Constitution, we at Templar will not sell them firearms to enforce their edicts.

Templar Custom is announcing that the State of New York, any Law Enforcement Departments, Law Enforcement Officers, First Responders within the State of New

York, or any New York State government entity or employee will no longer be served as customers.

*York Arms – Buxton, ME*

Based on the recent legislation in New York, we are prohibited from selling rifles and receivers to residents of New York. We have chosen to extend that prohibition to all governmental agencies associated with or located within New York. As a result we have halted sales of rifles, short barreled rifles, short barreled shotguns, machine guns, and silencers to New York governmental agencies.

*Cheaper Than Dirt – Fort Worth, TX*

Recently, companies such as LaRue Tactical and Olympic Arms have announced that they will no longer sell prohibited items to government agencies and personnel in states that deny the right to own those items to civilians. It has been and will continue to be Cheaper Than Dirt's policy to not to sell prohibited items to government agencies and/or agents in states, counties, cities, and municipalities that have enacted restrictive gun control laws against their citizens. We support and encourage other companies that share in this policy.

Second Amendment activist groups "Guns Save Life" and "Grass Roots North Carolina" are currently urging big gun manufacturers Sig Sauer, Smith and Wesson, and Glock to halt their sales to government agencies within states that have clamped down on their residents' right to bear arms.

In conclusion, you can see by these companies' announcements, what similar legislation would do to our commerce in Kansas, whether that legislation be passed by the Kansas legislature or be imposed on us by the federal government. If we do not prevent this, it will cost hundreds of jobs and a great loss of revenue in our state. On the other hand, if we pass the Second Amendment Protection Act, the opposite could very well be the outcome. I urge you to pass through this committee HB 2199 and protect our Second Amendment rights.

Jack Sossoman  
6024 SW 40<sup>th</sup> Terrace  
Topeka, KS 66610  
785-478-3831  
jsossoman@att.net

---