

## What is the Nature of Gun Control?

By Jim Hansen

Gun control legislation, or as is more accurately referred to, anti-Second Amendment legislation, is an ideological monstrosity besetting the American people.

Motives for passing anti-gun laws vary, but despite the altruistic phrases used by anti-gun types, all of them basically boil down to three things -- all of them distinctly bad news for American gun owners.

First of all, politicians and bureaucrats seem to have almost a genetic tendency to pass new laws and regulations. Quite often, they do so simply to keep themselves occupied and to hassle people unnecessarily. Examples abound: anti-indoor smoking laws, anti-outdoor smoking laws, 55 mph speed limits, draft registration laws, anti-fireworks legislation, hate crimes legislation, and of course the previously mentioned anti Second Amendment laws. In and of themselves, they may or may not be of evil intent; they may just display the ineptitude and stupidity of a political class.

A secondary motivation for anti-gun laws is obviously more threatening than the first, i.e. registration prior to taxation. Politicians and bureaucrats by definition are always trying to increase taxes and revenue levels by increasing the number and variety of

taxes collected. What better way of feeding the burgeoning bureaucracy than by taxing firearms and firearms transfers? After all, you are robbing Peter to pay Paul and you are going after objects, firearms, which have already been demonized by the media. Pretty clever isn't it?

The primary motivation for gun control legislation is by far the most ominous. Quite simply, it is an attempt by certain elements in the ruling class to create the modern day equivalent of a slave society by disarming the American population.

The ruling class in this country, over the past 40 or 50 years has become so foul, so greedy, so arrogant, and so covetous of power and wealth that it must do everything in its power to preserve and extend its power. Hence, anti-gun laws. Forget the altruistic sounding slogans of the media and the elite. In point of fact, the ruling class is absolutely terrified of an armed and aroused population. They are obviously hell-bent on the destruction of the Second Amendment, the only mechanism, ultimately, by which the people can defend themselves against their own power elite. Will the firearms owners of America let them get away with it? Only time will tell.

*(A guest editorial submitted by Jim Hansen, a longstanding, faithful member of GOC.)*

**TO: SENATOR H. L. RICHARDSON, (ret.)**

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### Virgina Tech Continued . . .

with all of the gun control laws governing the acquisition of firearms -- registration forms and background checks and still the laws did not prevent him from conducting his diabolical acts.

It's ironic that last year VT opposed House Bill 1572 by Delegate Todd Gilbert, a bill that would have given college students and employees the right to carry handguns on campus. Although it is not illegal for students, employees and visitors to carry handguns on campus, it is against University policy and violators can face expulsion. Maybe VT needs to re-evaluate their position...

As for me, I will always have faith for protection by my trusty friends...the good Lord and Smith & Wesson.

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# California GUN OWNERS

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## Gun Owners Legislative Update . . .

By Gwen Friesen

On Tuesday, June 26th, GOC Executive Director and chief lobbyist Sam Paredes testified before the Senate Natural Resources Committee against AB 821, known as the lead ammo ban, and in the Senate Public Safety Committee against AB 1471, the bill calling for microstamping of firing pins on semi-automatic pistols. Both bills passed their respective committees on straight party votes, the Democrats calling for more gun control and the Republicans voting against it.

### Legislation targeting gun owners continues to move....

Anti-gun legislation listed here is of the greatest concern and needs your calls or letters...see links below for contact numbers and addresses:

#### AB 821 (Nava - D) Lead Ammo Ban:

This bill mandates the exclusion of lead in ammunition used in the California Condor flying range. GOC believes the bill is a precursor to an outright hunting ban. The bill is on its way to the Senate Appropriations Committee to gauge the cost to the state incurred by this measure. There is no question that this bill will have a significant fiscal impact any way you look at it. There are approximately 30,000 hunters who hunt in what is described as the California Condor Range. Many hunters will not want to use or be able to afford the added costs of non-lead ammo and will forgo hunting in California for big game such as deer, bear, bobcat, wild pig or varmints like coyote, rabbit, squirrel, rock chuck and the like. There is also a very real concern amongst hunters that none of the available non-lead ammo will shoot sufficiently accurate in their firearms to insure ethical hunting practices and thus will choose to hunt in other states. This will cost the State of California dearly. Just think of all of the hunting license, tags, permits and stamps that will not be purchased by hunters. The truth is that hunters are the only ones who provide the financial resources for

game and non-game management. The anti-hunters provide nothing but lawsuits and anti-hunting agitation. When asked, the Department of Fish and Game has stated that the only way they could possibly enforce this law is to require that hunters have the actual ammo manufacturer's box with them when they are in the field because it is very difficult to tell the difference between ammo containing lead and non-lead ammo. This precludes the use of reloaded ammunition. Now is the time to call or fax or write your Senator from your district, and come along side GOC by voicing your **opposition** loud and clear.

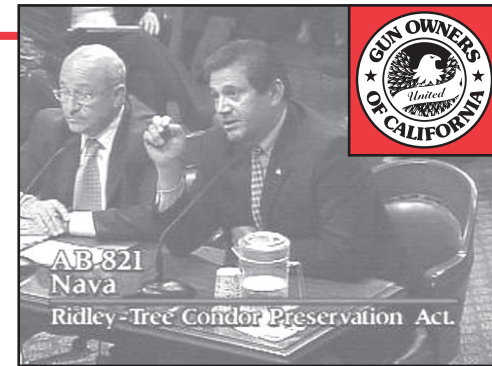
#### AB 1471 (Feuer - D) Microstamping:

Follows on the heels of AB 352 (Koretz-D) of 2005-6). Calls for laser etching characters inside semi-automatic pistols that will imprint markings on the cartridge casing when the gun is fired. University of California at Davis study proved that the technology is unreliable. Also, rather than succumb to the law, should it pass, manufacturers are vocal that they will abandon selling in California. They will not retool for the benefit of one state. Should this one aspect actually take place, California will find its cost for Law enforcement to sky rocket.

This bill definitely needs your calls to be stopped. Don't delay another Day.

#### AB 334 (Levine - D) Lose your Firearm, become a Criminal.

Makes failure to report a stolen or lost firearm a crime. Same standards apply to parts of a firearm... frames and receivers specifically. Also, the bill



*Sitting next to AB 821 author Assemblyman Pedro Nava, GOC Lobbyist Sam Paredes testifies against the lead ammo ban bill*

allows local governments to pass ordinances that differ from state law. The author's intent is to stop straw purchases of firearms. That is when someone legally purchases a firearm with the intent of giving it to someone else (often times someone ineligible to legally own a firearm). GOC has testified that instead, this bill gives straw purchasers a get-out-of-jail-free card. Under this legislation, once a person reports a lost or stolen firearm, they no longer have any liability if the firearm is used in the commission of a crime. Instead of reducing straw purchases, this bill will give criminals an incentive to report newly

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*Legislative Report Continued . . .*

purchased firearms as lost or stolen to protect their cohorts in crime. Last year the Governor vetoed SB 59 which carried the same language. **We oppose this bill.**

**AB 362 (de Leon - D) Ammunition Sales, Vendor Registry, etc...**

This bill calls for:

Registration for Vendors of handgun ammunition and a Central Registry to be kept by the DOJ; Registered Vendors are to monitor employees and request background checks; Retail stores cannot display handgun ammunition on counters; Handgun Ammunition must be transferred face to face ( stops mail order/internet transactions) Requires Thumbprint of ammunition purchaser; Records of ammunition transactions to be kept by Vendor for 2 years; subject to unannounced inspection;

Of course, the next step is to call for ammunition purchaser background checks and waiting periods before they can buy a box of ammo or reloading components.

**We oppose this bill.**

**Common Sense Gun Legislation:****AB 1645 (La Malfa - R) Emergency Powers: Firearms**

This bill forbids the governor from seizing or confiscating guns or ammunition from law-abiding citizens who lawfully own or possess during an emergency in the state.

This measure will bring us in line with the federal law which gives the citizen the freedom to utilize his property for defense of self and family.

**We support this bill.**

## Virginia Tech Revisited – An Unnecessary Tragedy!

*By Sam Paredes*

With grief in our hearts we extend our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of those impacted by the horrible atrocity committed by a deranged killer at Virginia Tech (VT).

Unfortunately, it was predictable. As long as states and communities delude themselves with the thought that they can create, via government edict, violence free utopias - with so-called Gun Free Zones - these tragedies will continue to occur. Gun Free Zones are nothing more than Victim Rich Environments. You might as well post a sign on your lawn that says “We are un-armed in this house!”

Predators always seek safe surroundings to do their evil deeds.


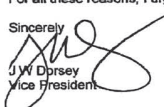
Anyone wondering whether the students or faculty, even if armed, would have found the courage to defend themselves in so horrific a maelstrom need think only of the heroic actions of those who, though unarmed, placed themselves in the path of destruction to save others. Had even one handgun been available for defense, the killer’s easy prey would have had a chance.

A death wish for their country, culture, and people haunts the hard left, which is why its minions

# Micro-stamping is a Semi-Auto Pistol Ban in California!

As all of our long-time members know, Gun Owners of California is always suspicious of the anti-gun left and their intentions. Our fears have now come true. As you will see from the following letters from leading firearms manufacturers, AB 1471 is tantamount to a semi-auto pistol ban in California. Given the choice to comply with the provisions of this bill or stop selling firearms in California they must choose the latter. This is no bluff or bluster, just the plain facts.

*See for yourself...*

<b>GLOCK, Inc.</b>		<b>U.S.A.</b>		
GLOCK, Inc. P.O. Box 369 Smyrna, Georgia 30081 U.S.A.		Tel. +1 (770) 319 4778 Fax +1 (770) 437 4714		
<b>Sen. Gloria Romero</b> Chair, Public Safety Committee State Capitol, Room 313 Sacramento, CA 95814		<b>Via Fax - (916) 445-0485</b>		
<b>Sen. Dave Cogdill</b> Vice Chair, Public Safety Committee State Capitol Room 3048 Sacramento, CA 95814		<b>Via Fax - (916) 327-3523</b>		
your reference	dated	our reference	Smyrna, 9/26/2007	
Dear Senators Romero and Cogdill:				
Thank you for this opportunity to explain to the Senate Public Safety Committee why GLOCK, Inc. strongly opposes A.B. 1471.				
AB1471 would require that the make, model, and serial number be micro-stamped onto the interior surface or internal working parts of all handguns in such a manner that those identifiers are imprinted onto the cartridge case upon firing. Under AB1471, the manufacture, sale, and transfer of handguns that do not include their identifying information would be a crime. According to a recent study from the University of California, the existing technology behind the micro-stamping process is still unreliable, the study concluded that, "At the current time it is not recommended that a mandate for implementation of this technology in all semiautomatic handguns in the state of California be made."				
In addition, GLOCK, Inc. opposes AB 1471 for the following reasons: a.) Compliance is cost-prohibitive and not the few dollars per gun the patent holder ID Dynamics wrongly claims, and b.) Compliance would require a significant reconfiguration to the material management, assembly process, and distribution of GLOCK pistols. The aggregate result is that GLOCK must reconsider marketing its pistols in California.				
You may also be aware that two separate and independent studies have conclusively established that this patented, sole-sourced technology is flawed and unreliable and can be easily defeated in mere seconds using common household tools, not to mention that the parts can be removed and replaced with widely available unmarked parts, defeating the sole purpose of this legislation. Most criminals will be very capable of removing micro-machined marks on the firing pin with a file or hone stone in less than 20 seconds. Criminals could also pick up "stamped" shell casings at a local gun range and leave them at the crime scene in an effort to confuse law enforcement. Officers would be forced to spend valuable time and limited resources tracing all "planted" serial numbers recovered.				
For all these reasons, I urge you to oppose CA AB 1471.				
Sincerely,  J.W. Dorsey Vice President cc. Mr. Larry Keane - NSSF				

**SIGARMS**

Eric Cook  
General Counsel

June 25, 2007

Via Fax - (916) 445-0485

Sen. Gloria Romero  
Chair, Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol Room 313  
Sacramento CA 95814

Via Fax - (916) 327-3523

Sen. Dave Cogdill  
Vice Chair, Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol  
Room 3048  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: A.B. 1471 (firearms microstamping) - OPPOSE

Dear Senators Romero and Cogdill,

Thank you for taking the time to hear Sigarms' views on the above referenced bill.

Sigarms is a significant supplier to the law enforcement community here in the United States. We supply firearms to more state police agencies than any other manufacturer and to about a third of the law enforcement agencies nationwide. In addition, we supply firearms to U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Secret Service, and to the Federal Air Marshals, among others. So we share many of the concerns of law enforcement when it comes to crimes committed with guns.

We oppose A.B. 1471 quite simply because it will not be effective at reducing crime. Microstamping technology is not perfected yet. Studies have shown that the markings cannot be read or are incomplete and the technology is easily and quickly defeated. The micro engraved markings on the firearm can be removed literally in seconds with simple tools found in any home.

In order to put microstamping into effect, manufacturers such as Sigarms will require a major investment in new capital, plant and equipment. Contrary to the suggestions of the patent holder and the interest groups that support AB 1471, compliance with the requirements of this legislation is not merely a few pennies or even a few dollars per firearm.

As a good corporate citizen we will always be willing to work with law enforcement and the various state legislatures to reduce gun-related crime. This bill, however, will not work to reach that goal and will only result in a great expenditure of effort, time and money with no corresponding reduction in gun related crime. Should the bill pass our company would be faced with making a significant investment in order to meet the requirements of a single state that is requesting an ineffective and unreliable modification, one that criminals can and will defeat. Sigarms would have to seriously consider whether it makes financial sense to make such an investment.

We are not alone in thinking that the technology is not ready yet. We urge you to consider the results of the peer-reviewed study by Professor George Krivosta published in the Winter, 2006 edition of the Journal of the Association of Firearms and Toolmarks Examiners (AFTE) and the more recent study by researchers at U.C. Davis. We concur with the recommendations of the U.C. Davis study that called for further study of the technology rather than enacting legislation to require this unreliable technology.

We believe that gun related crime is an important issue, however Microstamping is not the answer.

Sincerely,

  
Eric Cook  
General Counsel

CC: L. Keane, SAAMI



Leland A. Nichols  
President & Chief Operating Officer  
EMAIL: lnichols@smith-wesson.com

June 25, 2007

Senator Gloria Romero  
Chair, Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol, Room 313  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Dave Cogdill  
Vice Chair, Public Safety Committee  
State Capitol  
Room 3048  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: California A.B. 1471 – (firearms micro-stamping) – Oppose**

Dear Senators Romero and Cogdill,

Thank you for this opportunity to explain to the Senate Public Safety Committee why our company strongly opposes A.B. 1471.

Smith & Wesson Corp. has been providing duty weapons and partnering with law enforcement and the military since 1852. We provide pistols to be used as duty weapons to notable customers including the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Orange County Sheriff's Office, Fresno Co. Sheriff's Office, Berkeley Police Department and numerous other California law enforcement agencies. Smith & Wesson also sells pistols and revolvers to California citizens for protection and sporting purposes through local retailers.

We oppose A.B. 1471 because it could dramatically increase the cost of manufacturing firearms for California to the point where a firearm manufacturer would need to consider whether it would be a prudent business decision to withdraw from the California market because the compliance costs would not be recouped. We do not believe that A.B. 1471 will reduce crime nor improve public safety. A recent study by U.C. Davis recommended against legislatively mandating this patented, sole-sourced technology, concluding that the technology was "flawed" and unreliable and because it can be so easily defeated in a matter of seconds using common household tools. We concur with the researchers at U.C. Davis when they called for further study of this technology.

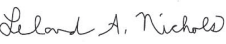
This legislation would require the serial number of the product to be micro-laser engraved on numerous production parts. Within our manufacturing, gun production is not just an assembly process. Many of the components are actually "hand-fit" to insure reliability and consistent quality. The serial number is applied to the frame (per Federal law) near the end of the assembly process, as the product is almost fully finished. If A.B. 1471 were passed, Smith & Wesson would have to fully manufacture and assemble the products, test them for function, then completely disassemble to outsource the micro-laser technology. Once the components are procured with the micro-laser technology, we would then need to reassemble, possibly requiring additional hand fitting and then once again, test for function and reliability. Not only will this dramatically increase the cost of the manufacturing process, it will create substantial incremental inventory and delays to our law enforcement partners in California. It may become financially unfeasible to manufacture firearms for California under these conditions, thus putting law enforcement duty weapons at risk.

In addition to the increased cost that would need to be passed along to law enforcement and other customers, the recent study commissioned by the California legislature from U.S. Davis advised that the sole sourced micro-laser technology "could be easily removed in seconds using household tools". It does not seem logical to implement a process that will dramatically increase cost but be easily defeated using common household tools.

We are not alone in opposing micro stamping. Major law enforcement groups, including the Peace Officers Research Association of California and the Orange County Sheriff's Office, are on record as opposing firearms microstamping.

For the above reasons and for the many others that have been cited by our industry's leading trade organizations the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, Inc (SAAMI), as well as law enforcement agents we have contact with, we urge you and your colleagues to vote against A.B. 1471.

Sincerely,

  
Leland A. Nichols  
President & Chief Operating Officer  
Smith & Wesson

CC: L. Keane, SAAMI  
K. Lynch, Lynch & Assoc., Legislative Advocate