

Dear Sheriffs -

At this point you have all heard from your constituents that MSPOA is public enemy #1 and the most anti-gun organization in the history of Montana.... **that is a patently false assertion.** I am sorry that you have been put in the position of having to respond to angry constituents and having them call into question your support of their 2nd amendment rights. It has been my experience that you all believe in, support and advocate for the 2nd amendment ardently. MSPOA NEVER said HB 258 is a bad bill nor did we ever ask Sheriffs to take action and oppose HB 258. We tried to be reasonable and work with legislators to amend the bill. To be clear, we approached both the bill sponsor and Mr. Marbut before the bill hearing to discuss MSPOA's specific concern and made clear to them we are not opposed to the overall intent of the draft legislation.

The Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association opposed [HB 258](#) and asked for two reasonable amendments, but we were told by both the bill's sponsor and Gary Marbut that the amendments WERE NOT friendly amendments. When amendments are not considered "friendly", you must appear as an opponent. MSPOA did so. During the hearing, it was stated that MSPOA and Sheriffs agree with the overarching philosophy that a federal gun ban should not and will not be enforced by local law enforcement officers in MT, but that we would like to see the bill amended to ensure that local law enforcement is not impeded from working with federal law enforcement on all

of the other public safety issues in which cooperation is necessary (drugs, child pornography, etc.)

Just because an organization asks for amendments to improve a bill, does not mean said association is anti-gun. Below my signature line are the two amendments that MSPOA requested.

This bill will likely be coming off the table and MSPOA will continue to request that the amendments be added to the bill language to ensure local law enforcement will have the ability to assist, coordinate and participate with federal law enforcement on any number of law enforcement issues.

The purpose of the first amendment is to ensure deputies and officers are not violating state statute while working with federal agents. MSPOA asserts that the language in Section 4 (1) will result either in local law enforcement not working with federal law enforcement because they do not want to violate state statute and/or federal law enforcement entering local jurisdictions without informing local law enforcement. As you know, not all cases are cut and dry and major sex and drug crimes almost always have a nexus with firearms.

The second amendment is necessary because in state statute, "violent felony offender" is not defined. Additionally, do we want people who are federal felons to have firearms? Sure, some federal felons might have been convicted of white-collar crimes, but many federal felons who would not be prohibited people have far more egregious crimes.

As I said on our weekly legislative call today, this bill will likely be coming off the table and we will continue to work on amending it with the reasonable amendments below.

Once again, I apologize that you have been pulled into this with your constituents. If you have questions, please call me!

My best,

Nanette

Nanette Gilbertson

MT Sheriffs and Peace Officers Assn.