

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 14, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

We write today concerning a longstanding effort to have the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service remove their prohibitions on law-abiding citizens from transporting and carrying firearms on lands managed by these agencies. We appeal to you on this matter in the interest of Second Amendment rights and consistency in firearms policy across federal public land management agencies.

As you know, 36 CFR 2.4, applicable to the National Park Service, and 50 CFR 27.42, applicable to the Fish and Wildlife Service, prohibits individuals from possessing a firearm on lands managed by those agencies - even citizens with valid concealed weapons permits.

These regulations infringe on the rights of law-abiding gun owners, who wish to transport and carry firearms on or across these lands. Also, you will note that other federal land management agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service allow transporting and carrying of firearms on these lands in accordance with the laws of the host state. These inconsistencies in firearms regulations for public lands are confusing, burdensome, and unnecessary.

For these reasons, we support an exception to 36 CFR 2.4 and 50 CFR 27.42 to allow law-abiding citizens to transport and carry firearms consistent with state law where the National Park Service's sites and the National Wildlife Refuges are located. Such regulatory changes would respect the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners, while providing a consistent application of state weapons laws across all land ownership boundaries.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns with you. Please treat this letter in conformance with all applicable procedural rules and ethical guidelines.

Sincerely,



Senator Mike Crapo

Senator Max Baucus

Additional signators of this letter include:

Inhofe, James M. - (R - OK)
Vitter, David - (R - LA)
Smith, Gordon H. - (R - OR)
Hatch, Orrin G. - (R - UT)
Coleman, Norm - (R - MN)
Coburn, Tom - (R - OK)
Gregg, Judd - (R - NH)
Johnson, Tim - (D - SD)
Tester, Jon - (D - MT)
Pryor, Mark L. - (D - AR)
Lincoln, Blanche L. - (D - AR)
Dorgan, Byron L. - (D - ND)
Nelson, E. Benjamin - (D - NE)
Webb, Jim - (D - VA)
Murkowski, Lisa - (R - AK)

Ensign, John - (R - NV)
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Cochran, Thad - (R - MS)
Bunning, Jim - (R - KY)
Thune, John - (R - SD)
Corker, Bob - (R - TN)
Hutchison, Kay Bailey - (R - TX)
Martinez, Mel - (R - FL)

Cornyn, John - (R - TX)
Hagel, Chuck - (R - NE)
Dole, Elizabeth - (R - NC)
McCain, John - (R - AZ)
Brownback, Sam - (R - KS)
DeMint, Jim - (R - SC)
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Shelby, Richard C. - (R - AL)
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Enzi, Michael B. - (R - WY)
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