



JON LOPEY
Sheriff

January 16, 2013

Honorable Diane Feinstein
Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 331
Constitution Avenue & 2nd Street, NE
Washington DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein:

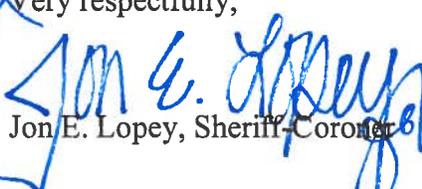
The purpose of this letter is to advise you that as the duly-elected Sheriff-Coroner of Siskiyou County (CA), I am strongly opposed to the pending legislation and/or executive orders designed to violate the constitutional rights of the citizens I serve by infringing upon their 2nd Amendment rights. These proposals will likely serve to punish law-abiding citizens and do not focus on the very criminals inclined to victimize their fellow citizens.

Based on my 35 years of law enforcement experience, I am convinced that depriving honest, law-abiding citizens of their 2nd Amendment rights will prevent very few violent acts and will actually increase "victimization" because you are proposing the disarming of good citizens and their right and capacity to defend themselves and their families from predators in society.

The United States Supreme Court has affirmed a citizens' fundamental right to legally bear arms. A recent example of this can be found in Supreme Court Cases *District of Columbia vs. Heller* and *McDonald vs. Chicago*. In the Heller case, the majority opinion affirmed that the Second Amendment protects a personal right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes.

We already have too many complex and confusing federal and state gun laws. We need to study what really causes crime and not exploit the tragedies in Aurora or Newtown to promote political agendas and ineffective anti-gun provisions. Our founding fathers got it right and many politicians are getting it wrong. We should focus attention on victims and hold violent criminals accountable and not penalize law-abiding citizens we are sworn to protect and serve.

Very respectfully,


Jon E. Lopey, Sheriff-Coroner