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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3507

TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
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COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEES  
ENVIRONMENT  
NATIONAL SECURITY

July 15, 2021

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20530

The Honorable Marvin Richardson  
Acting Director  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives  
99 New York Avenue NE  
Washington DC 20226

We write to you today to express our deep concern regarding the recent Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) proposed rule regarding the “Definition of ‘Frame and Receiver’ and Identification of Firearms.” This proposed rule is alarming and would give the ATF extraordinary power over the firearm industry.


While the aim of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the ATF may be to regulate privately made firearms, the proposed rule would create overbearing marking requirements for manufacturers and give pre-approval authorization of new firearm designs to the Director of the ATF. The proposed rule exceeds the ATF’s congressionally granted authority by creating definitions for terms and concepts that do not appear anywhere in statute. Should this rule go into effect, complete weapons defined as “a firearm other than a firearm muffler or firearm silencer that contains all component parts necessary to function as designed whether or not assembled or operable” would be required to be marked within seven days of its completion unless previous authorization is given by the ATF Director.[1]

These regulations hinder the development ability of manufacturers to produce new firearm designs or improve upon features of previously designed firearms. This proposed rule is just another example of the Biden administration’s attempt to eliminate law abiding citizens’ Second Amendment rights by furthering government overreach over the U.S. firearm industry.

The Constitution of the United States clearly states the Second Amendment is an essential right for all Americans. At a time when President Biden is nominating an anti-Second Amendment activist as the ATF Director, firearm manufacturers and dealers should not be held hostage by the agency.

We urge you to take action to correct this injustice immediately by withdrawing this proposed rule and appreciate your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

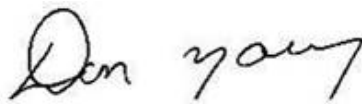


Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

[1] <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/05/21/2021-10058/definition-of-frame-or-receiver-and-identification-of-firearms>



Elise Stefanik  
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Don Young  
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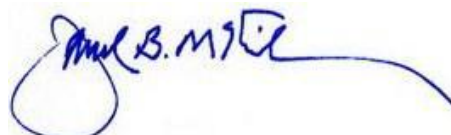
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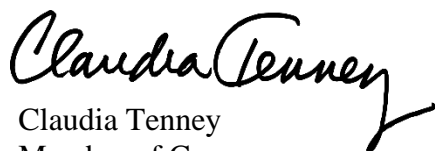
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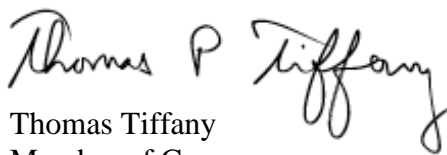
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Claudia Tenney  
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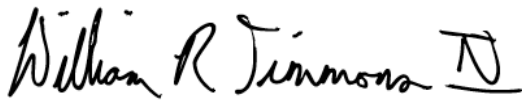
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