

EXCERPT 8
DATE 3/16/11.
MM HB174

Dear Jim Shockley,

My name is Alex Omura; I'm a physician living and working in Missoula, and wanted to discuss the bill regarding hunting with sound suppressors in MT. I've been told that there is a misconception that this bill would not affect many Montanans, and I wanted to urge you to please continue your full support of this important bill. I have friends in law enforcement, and they have said they have been inundated the past few years doing background checks for citizens' suppressor purchases. This is because more and more folks are realizing the benefits of shooting with sound suppression, the most important being hearing preservation. As you probably know, earplugs or muffs are not effective at preventing hearing loss from gunshot noise. The military has required earplugs for many years and it has not stopped the irreversible hearing loss in soldiers. Firearm suppressors, however, are more effective than plugs or muffs, and will reduce the muzzle blast of even centerfire rifles below the 140 dB threshold for hearing damage from impulse noise. In most European countries firearm suppressors are legal for hunting. They only reduce the muzzle blast around the shooter, and on a hunting rifle most of the noise heard by bystanders is from the sonic boom of the bullet, which is not reduced at all. For an observer a couple hundred yards away from a 30-06, the level of noise would only be slightly attenuated. There is a Finnish saying from WW2 (the Finns employed suppressors against the Soviets) that "a silencer doesn't make you silent, it makes you invisible", because it reduces the muzzle blast and makes it harder to locate the direction of fire. Anyone argues that this will encourage poaching has never heard a suppressed hunting rifle fired.

This is a safety issue, and I would be happy to discuss the medical or technical aspects of this with you or anyone else who is interested.

Please call any time, and please continue to support this bill.

Thanks,
Alex Omura, M.D.
406-370-5443 cell

Subject: Suppressor owner
From: David Brown <david_brown_mt@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 16:21:43 -0800 (PST)
To: Jim Shockley <gooseno4@yahoo.com>
CC: Gary Marbut-MSSA <mssa@mtssa.org>

Hello Mr. Shockley,
I personally own 5 suppressors (in various calibers) that I use primarily on rifles.
I live in the Missoula area.
Thanks,
Dave

Subject: RE: Info about suppressors needed
From: Tim Thomas <lil_tmy@hotmail.com>
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 18:27:24 -0600
To: Gary Marbutt <mssa@mtssa.org>, <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

Jim, Gary,

i won 1 suppressor now, have 2 more on order. and could list at least a dozen names of others that have MULTIPLE suppressors.

another way to get an idea of how many, is ask the sheriff just in Ravalli and Missoula county HOW many form 4 transfers he signs off on in any given year.

ive sold friends on 6 suppressors just in the last 2 months, that they have ordered

> Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 17:12:20 -0700
> To: mssa@mtssa.org
> From: mssa@mtssa.org
> Subject: Info about suppressors needed
>
> Dear MSSA Friends,
>
> MSSA's bill, HB 174, to repeal an archaic, Prohibition-era law making
> it illegal to possess a firearm suppressor "in the field or forest"
> will soon be before the Senate Judiciary committee.
>
> When I visited with Committee member Senator Jim Shockley about this,
> he found it unimportant because he believes hardly anyone in Montana
> owns suppressors. I told Jim that I know many people who own
> suppressors, but he didn't believe me.
>
> So, I need your help. If you own a suppressor, or if you know one or
> more people who own and use suppressors, please send Senator Shockley
> an email and tell him so. You don't need to give the names of your
> friends who own suppressors. Just tell Jim that you have X number of
> friends who legally own and use Y number of suppressors.
>
> Send to Jim at: "Jim Shockley" <gooseno4@yahoo.com> Please copy me
> on your emails to Jim.
>
> Thanks loads for your help.
>
> Gary Marbut, president
> Montana Shooting Sports Association
> <http://www.mtssa.org>
> author, Gun Laws of Montana
> <http://www.mtpublish.com>
>

Subject:

From: Dustin Lohof <dustin@lonewolfmt.com>

Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 19:43:02 -0500

To: "gooseno4@yahoo.com" <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

CC: Gary Marbut-MSSA <mssa@mtssa.org>

Jim,

I know several people who own suppressors and I'm planning on getting one for my 22 and my 223. At 55 years old my hearing is starting to go and on hot summer days shooting prairie dog it would sure be nice to not have to wear ear protection. I actually had no idea that it is illegal to possess a firearm suppressor "in the field or forest". I can't ever remember a crime or any illegal action ever attributed to the use of a suppressor. In some European countries it's illegal to not have your firearm suppressed in the field or forest.

In my humble opinion it's just another law that stops no crime and makes no sense. Two summers ago I had a \$150.00 automatic pocket knife taken from me and had to pay a \$250.00 fine for being in possession of a "switch blade". I have never heard of any crime committed anywhere with an automatic pocket knife but that doesn't matter it's the law, but why?

Respectfully,
Dustin Lohof

Lonewolfmt

General Contractor
PO Box 2987
Missoula MT, 59806



Dustin Lohof

dustin@lonewolfmt.com
406.870.3435

Subject: suppressors

From: "Jon Rives" <anytym@centric.net>

Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 18:05:38 -0700

To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

Jim,

I have a class 3 license for a suppressor that I can place on any rifle from 6.5 to .22 caliber. I also have several friends that have them. I can only use this while hunting varmint or coyotes. I wish they could be used for big game because the report of the rifle is cut in half. These suppressors are used all over the world while hunting.

I hope they will be allowed for hunting in Montana also. I will be 70 years old in September, and shooting has did a bad number on my hearing.

Thank you for considering this in your hearing,

Jon Rives

Missoula, Mt.

suppressors

Subject: suppressors
From: "W. I. Van der Poel" <poel01@earthlink.net>
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 18:37:25 -0700
To: Jim Shockley <gooseno4@yahoo.com>, Gary Marbut / MSSA <mssa@mtssa.org>

Hi Jim and Gary -

I saw Gary's email about suppressors and should report that I don't own a suppressor but know at least two who do.

More significantly, I noted the statement that Jim "... *found it unimportant because he believes hardly anyone in Montana owns suppressors....*". The reason there aren't more owners is the current status of illegal "afield". Circular logic. If that changed, I and probably many others would highly value the option to have and occasionally use one. I urge Jim to support legislation to make it legal to make guns less noisy.

Thanks to both of you for your hard work.

Regards and best wishes,

W. I. Van der Poel
Missoula
728-1861

Subject: suppressor ownership support HB 174
From: "Stelling, Corey" <corey.stelling@umconnect.umt.edu>
Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 01:39:07 +0000
To: "gooseno4@yahoo.com" <gooseno4@yahoo.com>
CC: "mssa@mtssa.org" <mssa@mtssa.org>

Dear Senator Shockey,

I am writing to inform you that 3 generations of my family own firearm suppressors. This includes my grandfather a Rancher and WWII veteran from Fort Shaw, MT.

For many years my grandfather has lamented the fact that he has not been able to bring his suppressor into the field for pest control.

This bill is a common sense bill that affects many working and voting Montanan's, please vote yes for HB 174.

Thank you,
Corey Stelling
Missoula MT

Subject: Ravalli Co suppressor owners
From: Mark Riedl <markriedl@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 17:56:26 -0800 (PST)
To: gooseno4@yahoo.com
CC: Gary Marbut <mssa@mtssa.org>

Good evening Senator,

My name is Mark Riedl and I live south of Florence along 93. I'm a retired cop and former Marine NCO currently performing background investigations for security clearances, employment screening and professional certifications.

I also own and use suppressors, as do three other people I shoot with. We own a half-dozen rifle caliber suppressors between the four of us, each approved by both Federal and local enforcement agencies.

My neighbors appreciate the few thousand pests I shoot each Spring and Summer on their properties utilizing suppressed rifles, since I disturb no livestock, neighbors or hosts. In fact, I've been granted access to lands otherwise off limits to pest shooters specifically because I shoot suppressed. I've been doing this for years, apparently in violation of the law targeted for amendment this legislative session.

I would respectfully ask you to allow use of such devices afield to lift the status of my local activities from "criminal" to "neighborly".

Sincerely,

Mark Riedl
Florence

Subject: Firearm suppressors

From: "Michael Michlig" <mmichlig@bresnan.net>

Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 19:09:24 -0700

To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

CC: <mssa@mtssa.org>

Dear Senator Shockley,

Just to share with you, I legally own a registered firearm suppressor and have one friend that owns one as well. My suppressor was purchased through a process involving, the FBI, the BATF, my local sheriff and a Class 3 transfer agent. I enjoy using this device at my local range and on my property because it lessens damage to my hearing. On my property, I can legally shoot my firearms without alarming neighbors or creating a disturbance. I would like the right to use my suppressor in field and forest. Please consider positively HB 174. Please know that all gun laws effect only honest law abiding citizens and have no effect what so ever on law breaking criminals.

Yours truly,

Michael Michlig
648 Aero Lane
Bigfork, MT 59911

406-250-3168

Subject: HB174
From: Paul Summers <paulsummers105@msn.com>
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 19:13:28 -0700
To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

Senator Shockley,

I recently purchased a suppressor in anticipation of the passage of HB174. I have spoken with others, one current suppressor owner and several prospective owners who have expressed interest in the passage of this bill. I would appreciate your serious consideration of this legislation.

Thank You,

Paul Summers
Butte

Subject: HB 174 -- NEEDS PASSED
From: aaron nathaniel <an_pugh@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 19:03:40 -0800 (PST)
To: gooseno4@yahoo.com
CC: mssa@mtssa.org

Good evening Mr. Shockley,

I wanted to email you tonight asking you to please pass HB174. I am an active firearms enthusiast here in Montana and own multiple suppressors (silencers). Furthermore, I know several individuals who also own suppressors and we are all eager for this legislation to pass.

Therefore, I implore you to pass HB174 and bring suppressor ownership into the 21st century for Montanans.

Thank you,

Aaron N. Pugh
Helena, Montana

Subject: suppressors HB 174

From: TIMOTHY SOWA <mtsniper@msn.com>

Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 20:44:31 -0700

To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>, <mssa@mtssa.org>

Good Evening,

This is just a note about HB174 from a MTARNG sniper.

I have personal Knowledge of 3 friends that own suppressors, 5 dealers that sell suppressors.

I will be purchasing to purchasing suppressors for my savage tactical rifle and ar-15 this year.

I traveled to Scotland and the suppressors are sold with the rifles for hunting there in southern Scotland.

My friend had his 12 GA shotgun that was suppressed. It is common courtesy for the Scottish hunters.i will be using

this on our property in the coopers lake area as there are a lot of out of staters that don't like the noise of high power rifles.

As a member of the Montana Guard I shot on the average 1800 rifle and pistol rounds during a summer.

I can be contacted at the about address if Senator has any Questions

V/R

Tim

Subject: Suppressors
From: Tj Reeder <trpwyr@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 20:04:01 -0800 (PST)
To: Gary Marbut-MSSA <mssa@mtssa.org>

Gary, the e mail addy you posted won't work for me... here is my letter.. use it if you want..

Joe Reeder

Dear Senator Shockley

I've heard that you don't think there are many folks in MT who own suppressors, well sir, I own two , and I really am glad I do, I'm a DAV , former US Marine who lost my hearing while in the Marines... to much shooting!.. neither of my units are "Silencers" both still make noise..BUT they don't harm my hearing anymore.. of course I do use hearing protection but if I were hunting it would help me in that I could fire a shot and not worry about any more damage.. all hunting weapons break the sound barrier meaning the bullet is where it's going long before the Animal hears it so there is no advantage to using one to hunt... the fish and game folks will not admit this and will say that poachers can do their thing in silence ... simply not true.. a poacher is going to do his deed at night when all the FWP folks are home in bed , also my units cost me a \$200.00 tax, I had to go through almost a national security back ground check, then after a few months I got the license and then paid the fellow Montanan who builds them about \$800.00 for the unit... I kept my money in MT !.. so I'm out around a grand to own that one.. would a poacher spend that kind of money to poach a Deer? or even an Elk ?

In truth they do more good then harm.. I've never heard of a case of a citizen using a lawfully owned suppressor to break any law.. but they save hearing!..

I would say go try one yourself..then you will know the truth.. I'm out of state right now or I would offer the chance to shoot mine.. but if you just say you want to try one I can assure you several people will offer.

Thank you
TJ Reeder
Livingston MT

Subject: HB174 Suppressor

From: "Randy Stemple" <afterhoursservice@earthlink.net>

Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 21:04:54 -0700

To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

CC: "Gary Marbut" <gary@marbut.com>

Mr. Shockley,

My name is Randy Stemple from Missoula, MT. I have an interest in HB 174 because I am a legal Suppressor owner. While attaining a suppressor is time consuming, it is very worthwhile. I currently own one in 30 caliber which can be used on my 308's, 30-06 and my 300 win mag. I will be ordering one in 22 caliber this year.

My brother owns one that is 22 caliber and can be used on 22lr thru 223.

I also have a good friend who has a 22 caliber suppressor that he uses regularly.

Lastly I have a good customer who just received his new suppressor for his 50 BMG.

Montana also has several manufacturers of suppressors. The most notable I can think of would be Elite Iron from Potomac MT.

Thanks for your time

Randy Stemple

Subject: Support HB 174

From: Nicholas <sicnik@mcn.net>

Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 21:13:02 -0700 (GMT-07:00)

To: gooseno4@yahoo.com

CC: mssa@mtssa.org

Senator Jim Shockley,

Although I no longer hunt, I'm 70 years old, I support HB 174 to allow the use of suppressors for hunting and all other legal purposes. I still do a fair amount of shooting (and collecting), both informal plinking and match shooting. I currently own one (1) suppressor, and pending receiving a second suppressor, when my ATF Form 4 clears BATFE. I also have at least 6 friends who legally own one or more suppressors. Several of them hunt, and may elect to hunt using a suppressor when HB 174 is signed into law. A FOIA release article in a past issue (about two years ago), of the magazine Small Arms Review, showed that Montana ranked about fifth in the number of legally owned, registered suppressors.

Nicholas Brackett

Billings, Montana

Subject: Legislation support

From: "Dave Moen" <H2Ocooled@vikingcable.net>

Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 21:26:38 -0700

To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

CC: <mssa@mtssa.org>

Dear Mr. Shockley;

I am glad to have been asked to contact you relative to suppressors. They are abundant across the nation and in Montana. I own several as do numerous friends in Billings, many others in Montana and many thousands across the nation. I also know several people planning on purchasing their first suppressor. Individual state ownership statistics for NFA weapons/suppressors have been previously compiled based on the number of tax stamps approved for interstate transfer. There are hundreds of them in our state and more purchased all the time. Montana is one of the highest per-capita NFA states in the nation.

Further, national suppressor sales have increased to record levels in the past two years coinciding with better designed product becoming more affordable and more widely advertised. Some suppressors are built-in to a specific firearm (non-removable) while other types may be removed, even placed on a different firearm of the same caliber.

They are excellent devices for many shooting pastimes; they greatly reduce hearing loss, tend to minimize potentially disturbing noise for neighbors and provide rewarding experimentation, investment and study. They are also a rich part of our military history, have played storied roles in U.S. intelligence operations and continue to evolve along with other similar engineered devices.

Much of the general public remain unaware of the legal ownership opportunities for lawful NFA qualified items. Useful law changes will bring needed attention to these rights. I strongly encourage you to promote recapture of individual rights and enjoy the diverse benefits of reducing existing ill-conceived limitations to our much eroded freedoms. Thanks for your time.

Cordially, Dave Moen

Residence: Huntley, Montana

Office: Billings, Montana

Work 259-8258

Cell 591-3283

Subject: Suppressors

From: "Ronald E. Preston" <represton@earthlink.net>

Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 22:10:37 -0700

To: gooseno4@yahoo.com

CC: Marbut/MSSA/TOS <mssa@mtssa.org>

Dear Senator Jim Shockley,

I am a born and raised Missoula Native and avid sport shooter. I have two friends in Idaho who own and shoot suppressed guns. These weapons are much more pleasant to shoot than non suppressed guns. I would like to put suppressors on two of my weapons and would appreciate any support you can provide in this endeavor. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Ron Preston

Subject: silencers HB 174

From: "Shirley" <shirley@constructionmonitor.com>

Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 23:50:46 -0700

To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

Senator Shockley,

I want you to know of my opinion about HB 174 and the need to the use of silencers on guns. I've been looking at silencers and designs to build my one. I have plenty of acreage and good safe shooting spots, and plenty of varmints to control, but the noise with all the houses around is too great. The European Countries all want their hunters to use the silencers, yet here, where we are supposed to have freedoms, it is a \$200 license fee to own one. That is ridiculous! We used to have the scouts come here for target practice and trap shooting but now it is disturbing to the neighbors, though it is plenty safe to do this fun activity. I see plenty of reasons to remove this out of date and ridiculous regulation. This household of 15 (with all the in-laws) request that you vote YES on HB 174.

Sincerely,

Dan Rasmussen

868 Willoughby Ln

Stevensville, MT 59870

Subject: HB 174

From: Jim Stiffler <jstiffler69@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 05:17:03 -0700

To: gooseno4@yahoo.com

CC: mssa@mtssa.org

Mr. Shockley: Please be advised that I know of 4 individuals that legally own and legally use suppressors.

I would appreciate your support in on HB 174. Individuals that spend the time and money to register their suppressors, pay the federal tax and spend upwards of \$1000.00 for a suppressor do not intend to use them illegally.

Sincerely,

James G. Stiffler

PO Box 897

East Helena, MT 59635

Subject: HB 174

From: D H <chevy_sb350@hotmail.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 06:54:29 -0700

To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>, <mssa@mtssa.org>

Good Morning Mr. Shockley,

I am writing you this email to ask for your support of HB 174. Numerous and myself own multiple suppressors and because of this law are very limited on where we can use them. Being legally limited to shooting them on private land hurts us and the average Montanan who does not own (or know someone who does)a piece of private land. We should be able to utilize our vast amount of public lands to shoot our suppressors as that is what that land is set aside for, public use.

Mr. Shockley please support this bill to help out us fellow Montanans.

Thanks for your time and support

Dan

Subject: Supressor ownership
From: Glen Demaray <yaarmed@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 06:08:07 -0800 (PST)
To: gooseno4@yahoo.com
CC: Gary Marbut <gary@marbut.com>

Jim, I know of at least three other individuals who legally own and use suppressors. Suppressors greatly improve the use and enjoyment of rifles and pistols. They only cut out muzzle blast not bullet or impact noise and significantly reduce the risk of permanent hearing loss. I urge you to support any legislation that will reduce the legal boundaries to their ownership and use afield. GD

I know three people

Subject: I know three people

From: Nick Larson <ncklrsn@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 08:21:44 -0600

To: gooseno4@yahoo.com, Gary Marbut-MSSA <mssa@mtssa.org>

Jim,

I know three of my friends have suppressors, two of them have more than one. I will be ordering one this summer too.

--
Nicholas Larson
ncklrsn@gmail.com
406.696.7339
ASI Project Manager
Chester, MT

Subject: Silencers

From: "T.R. Lane, Sr." <trlane@3rivers.net>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 08:56:53 -0600

To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

CC: <mssa@mtssa.org>

Mr. Shockley,

I have lived here in Montana for almost twenty years. I personally have nine silencers for weapons. I also know six other individuals that also have a number of silencers in Madison County. I'm a former Law Enforcement Officer in Montana. Most people who have these are serious shooters and upstanding individuals with exceptionally clean back ground records. Otherwise, they could not possess the silencer under the NFA regulations and background checks, etc.

Respectfully,

T.R. Lane, Sr.

Ennis, MT

406-682-7718

Subject: Suppressors and HB174

From: Mark Springer <mark@dayspringrestoration.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 08:15:54 -0700

To: "gooseno4@yahoo.com" <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

Good Morning Jim,

I just wanted to drop you a quick note to ask for your support of HB174 which would repeal the law that makes it illegal to possess a suppressed firearm in the field. I own firearm suppressors and I have found that there are many advantages to using firearms suppressors in addition the reduction of decibel assault on the eardrums. I personally know at least 20 other people who use suppressed firearms who, I'm sure would also appreciate your support of this measure.

Let me know if you have any further questions or if I can be of further assistance.

I thank you for your service to our great State,

Mark Springer, CR

President/CEO



www.dayspringrestoration.com

5463 Trumpeter Way
Missoula, MT 59808

Missoula: 406.541.4911
Kalispell: 406.257.4911

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Subject: firearm suppressors

From: "Patrick Fox" <patrickfox@doubekpyfer.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 08:53:37 -0700

To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

CC: <anders.blewett@gmail.com>

Hello Senator Shockley,

My name is Pat Fox. I work for John Doubek and Rick Pyfer here in Helena. I am writing you in regards to HB 174.

I am a hunter and a firearms enthusiast. I also need my ears to hear when a judge is lambasting me about some argument he/she disagrees with in the Courtroom. I also have sensitive ears (I tend to think this is an offshoot of being married for nearly a decade but my wife, the blessed soul she is, has confirmed through my mother that I have always had sensitive ears). Maybe I'm just a pansy, but... Hearing is important.

Whenever I am at the range, I am always careful to wear ear and eye protection. This is not a problem because you can always yell at your buddy (who is also yelling at you) about the location of a shot, the wind, how much he likes his Benelli Nova for hunting waterfowl, etc...

As you know, when you're in the field and putting the stalk on a game animal, it is impracticable to wear ear protection. You are communicating with your hunting cohorts in hushed tones, regarding which path to take or how to get an ethical shot on a game animal. When the shot presents itself, there is little if any time to get into an appropriate firing stance, let alone to throw on ear protection.

I have a Savage Model 99 in 300 Savage caliber, for which I reload (with premium bullets at moderate but highly accurate velocities) given the lack of availability of suitable ammo on the market. It is a light-weight, shorter-barrelled rifle attuned to deer hunting in the Ponderosa-clad hills of south-eastern Montana. I am from Hardin and despite my affinity to Western Montana, I still like to spend my valuable hunting time in "God's Country." I know you live and practice in the Ravalli County, so we'll have to agree to disagree about which country is better!

The problem with the Savage is that it is LOUD. I have considered numerous alternatives, but you can't get away from being loud with a high-powered rifle. The lowest caliber that I would consider suitable for deer (with the appropriate load) is the 223 Remington. In most cases, due to barrel length, these are the loudest deer-suitable rifles on the market. All calibers suitable for deer (not to mention elk), except for low-pressure, heavy loads or black powder projectiles--wreak havoc on unprotected ears.

Accordingly, I am currently in the market for a suppressor, dependant, obviously, on the Legislature's action of HB 174. For me, it is worth it to pay the federal tax stamp and the considerable price for something that will protect one of my five (increasingly failing) senses. I know of three people who currently own suppressors for deer- and elk-capable rifles. They do not hunt with them for obvious reasons.

Further, there is more hunting going on in Montana's rural/urban areas. The Helena valley is a perfect example. With the appropriate non-standard big-game firearm (shotgun slugs, pistols, etc.), there are numerous opportunities to hunt the Helena valley, which in turn would help eradicate the burgeoning "urban" deer population we experience here. There's a lot of great alfalfa-fed venison that could be put in the coffers of local food-banks or outdoorsmen's freezers all the while following sound wildlife management practices. The big problem is NOISE. Nobody, even an outdoorsman, wants to be awakened from a Saturday morning sleep-in by the crack of an unsuppressed 44 magnum pistol because their neighboring farmer permits hunting in the Helena valley to his "resident herd" of sixty mule deer from eradicating his bailed hay crop.

Suppressors are the key. I would pay the premium price for a suppressor and tax stamp to protect my ears and protect the good relations with land owners in a heartbeat if I knew I could be law-abiding in the process.

Lack of sportsmanship is not an issue. Suppressed rifles suffer from lower velocities (think of the horsepower

differential of '63 split-window Corvette with a stock muffler versus headers), which, given an accurate rifle, decreases the ethical range. Hunters are giving up velocity and range for noise reduction.

Please consider these concepts as you wrestle with HB 174. This bill will not encourage people to break the law. Suppressors are expensive. If somebody is going to poach elk or deer, they are not going to pay a significant amount of money to do so. Further, suppressors are not "silencers" as the movies would have us believe. Suppressed high-powered rifles are still loud, but not so loud as to leave your ears ringing for thirty minutes after the shot.

Thank you Senator Shockley. I would be happy to visit with you regarding this issue. I hope you will share my comments with your committee. If you feel it is necessary for me to appear live to voice my opinions, I would be happy to do so.

Sincerely,

Pat

Patrick T. Fox
Doubek & Pyfer, LLP
PO BOX 236
Helena MT 59624
406-442-7830 phone
406-442-7839 fax
www.doubekpyfer.com

Subject: Suppressors

From: Cody Sabo <codysabo@yahoo.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 08:14:40 -0800 (PST)

To: gooseno4@yahoo.com

CC: Gary Marbut-MSSA <mssa@mtssa.org>

Dear Mr. Shockley,

I am writing this email to inform you that I have 3 personal friends who own/use suppressors. I am a fourth generation Montanan, and I have 2 family members who also own suppressors. I am currently in the process of finding the right one for my rifle and going through the nightmare process with the BATFE. I actually plan on buying multiple suppressors. Thank you for your time.

Cody Sabo
Bozeman

Subject: suppressors

From: "Matt Egloff" <kragjorgensen@bresnan.net>

Date: Tue, 01 Mar 2011 09:29:44 -0700

To: gooseno4@yahoo.com,

CC: "Marbut, Gary" <mssa@mtssa.org>,

Sen. Shockley

I have several friends who own Class III firearms, including suppressors. This law prohibiting suppressors "in field and forest" probably makes them "criminals" when they go out to the gun clubs, which are "fields," and most have trees on the periphery, which makes them "forests."

It's rather like having a nice 65' Mustang or 59' Corvette or Model T Ford, and having some obscure badly written law making them a crime to drive on the highway. Yes, they're rare, but we should be excising ALL bad laws, not leaving them in place because it only affects a small percentage of people. Didn't Montana once have some stupid old law about "war parties" that only affected the tribes? We got rid of it. Get rid of this suppressor law too.

I was in the Army in Europe. I seem to recall that in France(?) of all places there are no rules on suppressors. Further, as a courtesy, farmers and folks in rural areas are expected to use them for pest control so as not to disturb the neighbors as much.

I've used them. They're about as quieting as the muffler on a big Dodge Diesel Truck, which is to say they're still loud enough to want ear plugs but not as loud as without. The best you get is about 25dB of noise reduction on guns that make well over 150dB. I recall that Osha wants you to wear ear plugs above 120dB intermittent noise. The whole James Bond phfft phfft silencer is Hollywood BS. Even if you wear ear plugs and muffs while shooting, you will still damage your hearing over time. The sound suppressors actually protect your hearing better when used with plugs and muffs. If we had any sense we'd repeal the federal tax on them and save a lot hearing aid costs in later life.

Kindly repeal the ban on sound suppressor use. Bad laws need to go even if they don't affect a great number of people. If you didn't have to pay that \$200 tax and subject yourself to the FBI proctology exam, more people here would use them.

Matt Egloff
Butte, MT

Subject: Suppressor email info

From: "Jerry R. Bailey" <jbscabin@blackfoot.net>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 09:38:30 -0700

To: <mssa@mtssa.org>

Gary, here is what I sent to Senator Shockley, hope it helps. JB

Jim, I personally own TWO legally registered suppressors, and we have a PREMIER SUPPRESSOR MANUFACTURER here in Montana. Although I would prefer to talk with you one on one about that since he is currently under contract and supplying them to the USG and has "classified" contracts.

Respectfully, JB

Major, Special Forces, Retired.

Jerry R. Bailey
Viking Consulting, LLC
72 Viking Lane
Philipsburg, MT 59858
H: 406-859-7200, C: 406-560-7100

To sign up, or try ASEA <http://www.jbscabin.teamasea.com>

I am seeking health conscious Network Marketing professionals who want an opportunity with the most exciting product and company available today!

Subject: Fwd: Suppressors
From: robert anton <bo39ba@bridgemail.com>
Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 10:10:49 -0700
To: Gary Marbut-MSSA <mssa@mtssa.org>

Begin forwarded message:

From: robert anton <bo39ba@bridgemail.com>
Date: March 1, 2011 9:48:56 AM MST (CA)
To: gooseno4@yahoo.com
Subject: Suppressors

Jim Shockley

I know of at least 6 individuals that use suppressors on a regular basis.

Robert Anton

Great falls

Subject: HB 174

From: James O'Neill <galloglassredhand@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 10:11:32 -0700

To: "gooseno4@yahoo.com" <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

CC: Gary Marbut-MSSA <mssa@mtssa.org>

Just to weigh in on the issue...I have and use two suppressors regularly and am in the process of order another from a Montana maker. A lifetime of shooting has taken it's toll on my hearing and suppressor use is to be encouraged. I probably know a dozen people in Montana who use them regularly. As you may know, their use is required in some parts of Europe in a much more restrictive environment than we have here, with no demonstrable adverse consequences as to poaching, etc.

They are far from silent as you might imagine from watching movies. Supersonic rifle bullets in a suppressed rifle still exhibit a quite loud sonic "crack", making their utility for stealthy poaching dubious at best. It is time for this measure to go forward.

Best,
James O'Neill
Bozeman, Montana

Sent from my iPad

Subject: Suppressor ownership

From: Skookumchuck Ag <skookumchuckag@yahoo.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 09:37:58 -0800 (PST)

To: gooseno4@yahoo.com

CC: mssa@mtssa.org

Jim,

I have personally owned a rifle sound suppressor for five years. I currently own one and have two others ordered. I also have two other NFA items.

I am friends with fifteen (15) other people who own, possess and use for all lawful purposes thirty-nine (39) suppressors total between them.

All of us would greatly appreciate a reasonable expansion of the legal places and situations that these safety devices may be used in.

Additionally, I am in routine e-correspondence with approximately 150 other individuals who are residents of other states who also own suppressors at about the same ratio as stated above, and use them for hunting, match shooting, target shooting, plinking, and other shooting activities in accordance with their respective state laws. There are many thousands of other's who own suppressors as evidenced by the BATF national records, but I do not personally know or correspond with them.

Please support the efforts to roll back restrictions on firearms freedom. Please actively support HB 174. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Lyle

Lyle Benjamin
406.937.3281 Work
406.539.5953 Cell

Subject: Suppressors
From: wwalker2615@aol.com
Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 12:39:13 -0500 (EST)
To: gooseno4@yahoo.com
CC: mssa@mtssa.org

Sen. Shockley,

I personally have three friends that own one or more suppressors.

You do understand that these citizens are required to pay a \$200 dollar tax and they can "legally" (according to unconstitutional federal law) own a suppressor.

Yet they can be arrested here in Montana for using a suppressor.

It is time to nullify these unconstitutional federal laws, and taxes. Then remove unconstitutional law from Montana state law.

Thank you,
Wayd Walker
Three Forks, MT

Subject: Suppressors in the State of Montana
From: "Jason Rigby" <JRigby@snowymtnrifles.com>
Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 11:34:02 -0700
To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>
CC: <mssa@mtssa.org>

Hello,

I am writing you in regards to Gary Marbut request for suppressers and to help open eyes to how many law abiding Montana own suppressors. We are a small custom rifle manufacture/retail outlet located in Missoula Mt. In our shop we stock and sell many different brands of suppressors. In the last six months we sold over 20 units to local Montana folks. The biggest complaint I get from suppressor owners is why in 9 other states can they be used for hunting and in Montana one of the most firearm friendly states it is against the law. If there was a potential for use during hunting season we would see a increase in sales. Not including suppressors that I have directly sold, I can name off another 20/30 people that I know that legally own suppressors. If you would like to discuss in further details please fill free to call me.

Thanks

Jason Rigby
Snowy Mtn Rifles
406-546-8732

Subject: HB 174

From: "Bridger Armory" <tyler@bridgerarmory.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 11:49:39 -0700

To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

CC: <mssa@mtssa.org>

Dear Mr. Shockley,

I am a Class II dealer for suppressors here in Bozeman. I have transferred **6 suppressors since 1 Jan 2011**, last year I transferred 8 total suppressors for all of 2010. Personally, I own and use 5 different suppressors for various weapons. If you consider the increased volume (no pun intended) of sales for this year you could reasonably assume that there will be many more citizens owning suppressors this year than last.

I have personally been on the range with 3 friends who have suppressors. This brings the number of people in Gallatin County that I personally know who own and use a suppressor to: 17 - 18 if you consider me.

Please support HB174 in the committee, please ask Sen. Jent about me and my business if you would like a reference.

Additionally it might interest you to know that the main reason most customers buy suppressors is for hearing protection and to be "less intrusive" to others in the field by lowering the weapons sound signature to "firecracker" sound levels. As a professional I am not aware of any suppressor that is totally silent in a way that would lend itself to illegal use.

Thank You

Tyler Merica



Subject: SUPPRESSORS

From: "Dave" <dave@beartoothguns.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 12:08:33 -0700

To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

CC: <mssa@mtssa.org>

Mr. Shockley,

My name is Dave Roan. I own a retail firearms business (Beartoothguns) in Billings. I am a federally licensed dealer that sells suppressors to the general public. Since I began selling suppressors I have facilitated over 200 transactions. There has been good growth in this industry due to the different shooting sports applying suppressors to their sport; Long Range, Varmint, Competition 3 Gun, as well as numerous Law Enforcement applications.

I understand that you are on the committee that will be considering the use of suppressors in the field. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Dave Roan
Beartoothguns
406-245-4448

Subject: suppressors
From: "Cynthia Spethman" <ropinnbrandin@blackfoot.net>
Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 12:21:14 -0700
To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>
CC: "Gary Marbut/MSSA/TOS/BIT" <mssa@mtssa.org>

Dear Senator Shockley:

Please be informed I have four (4) personal acquaintances that have sound suppressors. I have no idea if those individuals have more than one (like for different calibers). Be assured that this writer would enthusiastically own one or more sound suppressors if I had the money.

You should know that I live at Potomac, Montana and that one of my neighbors has a business manufacturing firearm parts (including suppressors). The business name is EliteIron LLC and/or Blackfoot Ironworks.

I personally strongly dislike the loud report of a rifle in the mountains. I spend my time there in quietude and reverence (hopefully). Hipshot is sort of a good friend of mine.

Thank you.

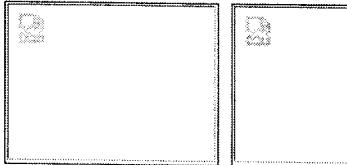
Sincerely,

Duane Grey Spethman

Subject: RE: Info about suppressors needed
From: Mike Byrnes <montana_mike@live.com>
Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 13:55:16 -0700
To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>
CC: Gary Marbut-MSSA <mssa@mtssa.org>

Senator Shockley-

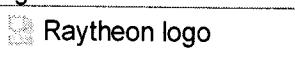
I have 2 friends who legally have and use Suppressors for their rifles. They utilize them on their 223, 243, and 308 rifles as well as their handguns 9mm, 357 and 40 caliber.
Please support the repeal of this oppressive and Archaic ban on suppressors. I agree with Gary in saying that this law is akin to the repealed "Volstead Act" aka prohibition.
As you remember from history, this was a profoundly unpopular law which was repealed.



Thank You for considering my opinion.

Mike Byrnes

Maintenance Specialist - Boilers
Raytheon Polar Services Company
McMurdo Station
Antarctica
Michael.Byrnes.Contractor@USAP.Gov
Pgr 690



Mike Byrnes

*McMurdo Station Antarctica
Superior Montana*



> Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 17:12:16 -0700
> To: mssa@mtssa.org
> From: mssa@mtssa.org
> Subject: Info about suppressors needed
>
> Dear MSSA Friends,
>
> MSSA's bill, HB 174, to repeal an archaic, Prohibition-era law making
> it illegal to possess a firearm suppressor "in the field or forest"
> will soon be before the Senate Judiciary committee.
>
> When I visited with Committee member Senator Jim Shockley about this,
> he found it unimportant because he believes hardly anyone in Montana
> owns suppressors. I told Jim that I know many people who own

> suppressors, but he didn't believe me.
>
> So, I need your help. If you own a suppressor, or if you know one or
> more people who own and use suppressors, please send Senator Shockley
> an email and tell him so. You don't need to give the names of your
> friends who own suppressors. Just tell Jim that you have X number of
> friends who legally own and use Y number of suppressors.
>
> Send to Jim at: "Jim Shockley" <gooseno4@yahoo.com> Please copy me
> on your emails to Jim.
>
> Thanks loads for your help.
>
> Gary Marbut, president
> Montana Shooting Sports Association
> <http://www.mtssa.org>
> author, Gun Laws of Montana
> <http://www.mtpublish.com>
>

Subject: suppressor owner
From: Nicholas Gebhardt <gebhardt02@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 13:21:29 -0800 (PST)
To: gooseno4@yahoo.com
CC: mssa@mtssa.org

Dear Senator,

I am sending this email in support of Mr. Marbut. I currently own 2 suppressors that my wife and I use while target shooting. I have thus far let three friends shoot my rifles with these suppressors and all three are currently researching suppressor manufacturers and have full intention of each purchasing a suppressor for their own personal use within the year. Target shooting with a suppressor has many benefits including reduction of rifle recoil (which my wife is most fond of) as well as the reduction in noise making the entire shooting experience more enjoyable. My wife and I really enjoy the two we own and are contemplating purchase of another.

Nick Gebhardt

Subject: Support HB 174 - "Repeal prohibition on firearm sound reduction devices in field"

From: Brian Wookey <bwookey@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 14:35:15 -0700

To: gooseno4@yahoo.com, Gary Marbut <mssa@mtssa.org>

Mr. Shockley,

Good afternoon, I would like to urge you to proceed forward with MSSA's bill, HB 174, to repeal an archaic, Prohibition-era law making it illegal to possess a firearm suppressor "in the field or forest".

Off of the top of my head I have 6 friends here in Montana who legally own and use 10 suppressors. I am sure I am forgetting a few also.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have.

Thank you!

Brian Wookey

3417 Carmel Drive

Billings, MT 59101

406-860-5192 Cell/Home

bwookey@gmail.com

Hi Jim, please read this..

Subject: Hi Jim, please read this..
From: "Pinocci" <Pinocci@3rivers.net>
Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 14:44:59 -0700
To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>, <gary@marbut.com>

Hi Jim, Randy Pinocci from Great Falls here. I thought I would write a bit about suppressor's. Many people are unaware that more and more are being sold across Montana. If you look at stores that sell guns you will see a few that show a hand gun or rifle with the matching suppressor. That's right a suppressor that is the same color and fitting shape as the gun sold as a set. A man in Missoula is an example of this.

Harvey Hollingsworth is a dealer for class 3 suppressor's and is starting paperwork to approve me to be a class 3 dealer to sell Suppressors to the public. I think we are just seeing it take off. If you would like Jim I think it would be great if I bring a rifle for you to shoot with and with out a Suppressor and I think you will see it can be more fun to shoot without the loud crack in your ear. Keep in mind the sound down range is the same as without a Suppressor.

Woman seem to like shooting with Suppressor's much more than without. This is a market I plan to hit hard.

You don't need hearing protection when shooting most guns with the right Suppressor. On the range others seem favorable to less sound.

Jim I am sure Suppressor sales will be a muti million dollar business in Montana in just the next few years. If you have time please call me at 1-406-899-1947.

Also above is AWC's web sight and Elite Iron I plan to sell the AWC and the Elite Iron brand but there are so many. Please keep in mind that Elite Iron is right here in Montana that means jobs right here in Montana. I understand that Elite Iron already has a government contract to manufacture Suppressor's for the military. I understand the company is growing and that's great for Montana. It may be the best Suppressor's made. Their web sight is above, I have owned and operated Suppressor's for a few years I think everyone who can get one should get two.

If you can Jim email me back that you got this email
Thanks.
Randy..

AWC Systems Technology Gun Accessory Tactical Rifles Silencers Sound Suppressors Sniper Rifle Pistol Accessories.url Content-Encoding: 7bit

Elite Iron High Quality Suppressors.url

Elite Iron High Quality Suppressors.url Content-Encoding: 7bit

Subject: HB 174 - suppressors
From: "Lloyd Phillips" <flintnet@flintnet.org>
Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 16:10:31 -0700
To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>
CC: "Gary Marbut-MSSA" <mssa@mtssa.org>

Dear Sen. Shockley; I am writing to you concerning HB 174 - about "suppressors in the field or forest". I have a number of friends who have suppressors and I have enjoyed shooting with them. I do not own one because of the limited availability for use currently in Montana, but I would like to own one and hope you will help me and others like me by repealing this old and out-dated law.

I can tell you that I have used a suppressor into the field - to hunt when I visited Great Briton. I was surprised to learn that suppressors are REQUIRED for use in Scotland when hunting with a guide - to save everyone's hearing - and they are recommended in England where I was visiting. I would love to be able to use one in Montana. I shoot prairie dogs and gophers in the spring and my ears can use a break - even with hearing protection the suppressor would be a big advantage.

Thank you very much for supporting this bill in the senate.

Lloyd Phillips
5828 Miller Crk Rd
Missoula, Mt 59803
406-251-5730

jim i own a suppressor

Subject: jim i own a suppressor

From: charles christensen <christensenfamily@bresnan.net>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 16:34:39 -0700

To: gooseno4@yahoo.com

CC: mssa@mtssa.org

Jim,

i have a suppressor and i have 6 or more friends that have one also. i want to be able to hunt with one as i have a large rifle and do not think it is safe to hunt with ear plugs in. mine barely reduces my rifles report to below 100 db but it is enough to not damage my hearing. suppressors also reduce rifles recoil which allows people to hunt with larger rifles and take cleaner shots with more knockdown for more humane kills. i plan on buying two to five more suppressors from locally owned suppressor manufactures "www.eliteiron.net". in europe it is considered rude not to use them and i believe in some countries mandatory. please pass hp174, thanks,

Chuck C in missoula

suppressor info needed

Subject: suppressor info needed
From: email j.mul <jeep1809@q.com>
Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 16:53:22 -0700
To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

Jim-

You should also check the federal registry if you think that few Montana own / use legal; suppressors

... or even consult local sheriff's departments ... or class 3 FFL dealers / SOT.

I have several suppressors and so do multiple friends; it is an archaic law that needs to be undone ... PLEASE !!!

Why should I be forced to compromise my hearing while hunting
when I could be using a suppressor to save my aging ears ... if allowed.
Most of Europe require suppressors when hunting according to my son overseas.

j.mul, a native Montanan that is over 60 !!!

From:
Subject: FW: Info about suppressors needed

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gary Marbut-MSSA <**

Dear MSSA Friends,

MSSA's bill, HB 174, to repeal an archaic, Prohibition-era law making it illegal to possess a firearm suppressor "in the field or forest" will soon be before the Senate Judiciary committee.

When I visited with Committee member Senator Jim Shockley about this, he found it unimportant because he believes hardly anyone in Montana owns suppressors. I told Jim that I know many people who own suppressors, but he didn't believe me.

So, I need your help. If you own a suppressor, or if you know one or more people who own and use suppressors, please send Senator Shockley an email and tell him so. You don't need to give the names of your friends who own suppressors. Just tell Jim that you have X number of friends who legally own and use Y number of suppressors.

Send to Jim at: "Jim Shockley" <gooseno4@yahoo.com> Please copy me on your emails to Jim.

Thanks loads for your help.

Gary Marbut, president

Subject: supressor
From: "John and Carol" <cnd2512@blackfoot.net>
Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 18:37:31 -0700
To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>
CC: "Gary Marbut-MSSA" <mssa@mtssa.org>

Hello Jim,

I am writing to let you know that I am an owner of a supressor. I live in the Swan and we have many problems with coyotes and such attacking and killing our livestock. With the supressor, I have more of a chance of getting my problem and more than one when they attack en masse, because they do not scatter so readily by hearing the all too known shot sound. I am a gun engraver, and with all the restrictions set on us, I want to have the edge to save my pets and livestock. I also have a neighbor that I know has one. I do not know of more owners in this valley that also own one, but I think you would be surprised to see how many people value what they own and want the edge against the numbers.

Sincerely, Carol Dorne

Subject: Suppressors

From: Dave Strom <d.morts@hotmail.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 19:37:33 -0600

To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

CC: <mssa@mtssa.org>

Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Jim Shockley:

I have one suppressor that I use on two separate firearms and one firearm with with a suppressor built in. Three close friends of mine have at least one suppressor each. They are all properly registered NFA weapons.

Dave Strom

Missoula

Subject: HB174

From: Justin Ward <wulfie@kyravixen.com>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 21:47:15 -0700

To: Jim Shockley <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

CC: mssa@mtssa.org

Dear Senator,

I have heard that you view this bill as unimportant because you don't believe many montanan's own suppressors. I for one admit I don't. However, I have interest of getting a couple in the future as I believe the reduction of decibals is benefitcial ear protection or not. I would love HB174 to pass to allow me the option of using a suppressor if I find a good shooting spot afield or if allowed under regulations hunting.

Subject: Firearm suppressor ownership.

From: Steven Leahy <steven.d.leahy@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, 2 Mar 2011 13:32:21 -0700

To: gooseno4@yahoo.com

CC: mssa@mtssa.org

Hello Senator,

I've been paying attention to HB 174 for several weeks now with great anticipation. I was told by a friend that you don't believe this to be an important issue because of the small numbers of silencer owners in Montana. I legally own two suppressors right now, with paperwork submitted to the BATFE to acquire a third. I personally have four friends in the Whitefish area who each legally own anywhere from one to seven suppressors. Out of just those four, plus myself, there are eighteen legally owned and registered suppressors in one small area of the state! I'm certain I'm not alone when I say I would be very grateful if you were to support this bill.

Best Regards,
Steven Leahy

Subject: HB 174 Suppressors
From: Cindy <cindy.bertek@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, 2 Mar 2011 15:23:57 -0700
To: gooseno4@yahoo.com

Greetings Jim

I have been following HB 174 and feel it is a very good beneficial bill. Please support the bill and take the time to discuss it in the Senate so our Senators can be informed about suppressors, their use, and the need of Montanans to be able to use them.

Most people's education about suppressors comes from Hollywood movies. The real uses and need for suppressors and how they work are far different from what we see in the movies.

There are some countries that mandate the use of suppressors by hunters. In 2008, 199,738 MT residents and 45,812 non-residents totalling 245,550 individuals bought a hunting license in MT. I am a hunter and know how good it would be to use a suppressor. In the past I never used to use ear protection while hunting. I know many people who have loss of hearing and tinnitus from shooting while hunting. Now I use ear protection when I hunt when I have the opportunity to put earplugs in before I shoot, which is not always the case. It is hard to fit youth with ear protection and in MT we do take our kids out on the hunt. My son accompanied me for many years before he was old enough to have a hunting license. He walked with me many times and over long distances. He spotted the animals and was there nearby when I shot the animals that fed my children until they grow up and moved away. He was good about plugging his ears when I shot.

Suppressors do just as the name suggests, they suppress the sound of a firearm. I have just recently been introduced to how suppressors work and how much sound reduction there really is. All hunting loads are supersonic loads are used for hunting loads. When the bullet is shot the shooter enjoys greatly reduced noise. Although, if you are standing down range and away from the shooter, you hear the loud crack of the bullet as it breaks the sound barrier. It is almost as loud as an unsuppressed firearm. Suppressors **would not** lead to unfair chase because the shot **can** be heard and are hit before the sound reaches them.

I do not currently own a suppressor although I do know at least 10 people who do own one. Given the opportunity I would procure one to hunt with immediately. Legalizing the use of suppressors for hunting would also benefit local MT businesses that would manufacture suppressors for our hunters. Suppressors would sell for about \$500 each (prices would go down as manufacturing refines). This could mean a profit from private industry of \$12.5M annually if only 10% of MT hunters purchased one suppressor every year.

The National Firearms Act of 1934 says we can own a suppressor. Although, with the current Montana law, we can legally own them in MT, but cannot use them in the field or forest. Please support this bill as it is beneficial to the almost 250,000 individuals who hunt in MT. It would be time well used to do away with a law on the books that is adverse to Montanan's and their health.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely

Cindy Bertek

2406 North Avenue West
Missoula MT 59801

Subject: HB 174 (Copy of letter sent to Jim Shockley)

From: Bob Peterson <rlpeterson.48@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, 2 Mar 2011 15:59:21 -0700

To: mssa@mtssa.org

Mr. Shockley,

I am writing you in support of HB 174. I personally own three suppressors and have five friends who own nine suppressors between them. The current law criminalizes a benign conduct and needs to be repealed. We can lawfully own suppressors pursuant to the National Firearms Act of 1934, but can't take them a field or in the forest. It doesn't make sense.

We live in a society where noise pollution is a very serious issue and concern for many. Noise pollution is always being monitored by OSHA and various environmental groups demanding tighter and tighter restrictions on noise pollution. Whether it is your personal vehicle, industry, work place, or off road vehicles in the mountains, tighter and tighter restrictions are constantly being implemented. I find it very ironic that one of the noisiest devices known to man that can and does cause serious hearing damage for the shooter and by standers would meet any opposition to reducing its sound signature. Many European countries require a sound reduction device on a firearm to be taken afield. They have done their scientific studies and fully understand the benefits associated with suppressing a firearm. It saves your hearing, reduces noise pollution, and does not alter the fair chase of game.

Most people have the "Hollywood" impression of a firearm suppressor which is very unfortunate. A firearm suppressor only reduces the noise to a safer level for the shooter and bystanders. It does absolutely nothing to reduce the noise of the ballistic crack or sonic boom of the bullet down range.

As a hunter and shooter for the past 40 years I now have serious hearing damage and suffer from Tinnitus caused from hunting, not just shooting. When I am at the range shooting I can wear hearing protection, but when afield hunting I can't. Not only is it unsafe to hunt with hearing protection, but it is very difficult to pursue your game.

I would ask that you please support HB 174. Suppressors are not the smoke and mirrors of Hollywood that they are portrayed to be. They are a functional device to help those of us who like to hunt and shoot preserve our hearing and reduce the noise pollution when afield.

Thank you,
Bob

Subject:

From: "Adam Olschlager" <aolschlager@crowleyfleck.com>
Date: Wed, 2 Mar 2011 16:43:42 -0700
To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>
CC: <mssa@mtssa.org>

Dear Jim:

Please see the MSSA blurb below. I own and legally use multiple suppressors in Montana.

Adam Olschlager

Dear MSSA Friends,

MSSA's bill, HB 174, to repeal an archaic, Prohibition-era law making it illegal to possess a firearm suppressor "in the field or forest" will soon be before the Senate Judiciary committee.

When I visited with Committee member Senator Jim Shockley about this, he found it unimportant because he believes hardly anyone in Montana owns suppressors. I told Jim that I know many people who own suppressors, but he didn't believe me.

So, I need your help. If you own a suppressor, or if you know one or more people who own and use suppressors, please send Senator Shockley an email and tell him so. You don't need to give the names of your friends who own suppressors. Just tell Jim that you have X number of friends who legally own and use Y number of suppressors.

Send to Jim at: "Jim Shockley" <gooseno4@yahoo.com> Please copy me on your emails to Jim <mssa@mtssa.org>.

Thanks loads for your help.

Gary Marbut, president
Montana Shooting Sports Association

ADAM OLSCHLAGER
CROWLEY FLECK PLLP
490 North 31st Street
Transwestern II
Billings, Montana 59101
Voice (406) 252-3441 Fax (406) 252-5292
www.crowleyfleck.com
aolschlager@crowleyfleck.com

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Subject: Silencers

From: "Hook" <cln4005@blackfoot.net>

Date: Wed, 2 Mar 2011 21:18:39 -0700

To: "Gary S. Marbut/MSSA/TOS" <mssa@mtssa.org>, <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

Mr. Shockley;

I would like to ask you to support HB 174. I can think of 12 people in my circle of friends who have silencers and there are at least that many who are considering purchasing one. Some use them for target shooting in safe but sound sensitive areas others use them for varmint and pest control. Silencers aren't quiet like on TV. Guns still go boom. The noise levels drop to ear safe levels however, and silencers reduce actual recoil by 60%. I have never seen anyone shoot a surprised firearm who didn't look up with a big smile after the experience. I would sure appreciate your help in this matter.

Sincerely; Rocky Hook

Subject: Fwd: Suppressors
From: John Barker <mtnhntr@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, 2 Mar 2011 22:41:41 -0700
To: gary@marbut.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Barker <mtnhntr@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 1, 2011 at 12:00 AM
Subject: Suppressors
To: gooseno4@yahoo.com

Mr Shockley

I currently work for a company in Missoula which sell suppressors we average 3-5 a month. I'm also in the process of starting my own buisness just South of Victor, Yes 5 miles South and one of the products I intend to offer are supressors.I already have my manufacture liscense for firearms and am currently engaged in building rifles my paper work for the Class 3 dealer is in the works.I know many legal supressor owners 5 locally and this bill coming before you is important to us. Please consider it as it would help my buisness grow and provide local employment in your and my home town. If you have any questions about my buisness call me at the number below. Yes I voted for you.

--
John Barker
Barker Machine Works
1369 Hwy 93 North #9
Victor Mt. 59875
406-381-8076
barkermachineworks.com

--
John Barker
Barker Machine Works
1369 Hwy 93 North #9
Victor Mt. 59875
406-381-8076

Subject: MSSA's bill, HB 174
From: Kyle Edwards <kdub112@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, 3 Mar 2011 12:17:01 -0700
To: gooseno4@yahoo.com, mssa@mtssa.org

I would just like to let you know that I have 8 friends here in Montana who possess sound suppressors. I too plan to get at least one, as soon as my new weapon arrives. Senator, please look into this closely.

Thank you for your time,
Kyle Edwards
Clinton, MT

Subject: re: Suppressors in MT

From: "John Mercer" <john@mercerfarm.com>

Date: Thu, 3 Mar 2011 12:50:01 -0700

To: "Jim Shockley" <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

CC: "Gary Marbut" <gary@marbut.com>

3-3-2011

Dear Senator Shockley ~

I understand you have serious misgivings about HB 174 and the current ownership and use of suppressors. As a first-time owner of a suppressor (63 years old - intended initially for use while hunting prairie dogs), I am obviously interested in seeing HB 174 become law and I hope you will reconsider.

Being new to the world of suppressors, and considering they have only recently been made legal in Montana, I only know of 4 other users and they possess a total of 8 'cans' that I know of. I also know of 3 other individuals preparing the paperwork (and the 6-8 month processing) to become suppressor owners.

But please understand, many owners do not want this to be common knowledge and it is only by accident I have learned of most of these owners. After decades of 'no', there is still a stigma attached to the use of a suppressor and the restrictions that we have lived with until recently have kept most users 'in the closet'. Considering the popularity and availability of suppressors in other countries, I am curious what prompts legislators in America to continue to discourage their use. Is there something about suppressors they find offensive?

Please contact me if you have any questions and I encourage you to support HB 174.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely ~

John Mercer
Sidney MT
(406) 489-1776

- It is just in the last year I have developed an active interest in suppressors. From swapping stories with other owners, I am sure there are many owners I do not know of - and I am surprised that it is common to own more than one unit.

Subject: Suppressors HB 174
From: "Roger Peterson" <rpetersom@3rivers.net>
Date: Fri, 4 Mar 2011 09:38:52 -0700
To: <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

Dear Senator Jim Shackley

Please support HB 174.

I don't have any personal friends that use suppressors but I wish they did and all the deer hunters that hunt close to our horse ranch.

The loud gun shots scare the horses and cause fence problems and injuries. If they had suppressors the noise would be severely cut.

It only makes sense to use them everywhere to cut down the noise that disturbs people, game animals and livestock.

So I and many of my hunting friends and land owners "really" want these available for our use.

Thanks you Sir

Sincerely
Roger & Sylvia Peterson
Sheridan, Mt.
59749

Subject: PRO - HB 174

From: al chambers <skydvr10@yahoo.com>

Date: Fri, 4 Mar 2011 09:07:29 -0800 (PST)

To: gooseno4@yahoo.com

CC: mssa@mtssa.org

Senator Shockley - i am a retired (29 years) Army veteran. I support HB 174's repeal of archaic suppressor characterization.

I own a suppressor. I have 4 other former military colleagues, each of whom have one suppressor. All are legally acquired and owned by responsible Montana citizens. Suppressors have utility in the urban encroachment times in which we live. Those who shoot on surrounding lands without suppressors seriously degrade my quality of life with almost daily weapons firing in our small valley that reverberates and sets your teeth on edge. In the good weather, one cannot sit outside some afternoons for the noise.

I recognize suppressors will not fix my local problem, but the issue is that suppressors are more prevalent than one might think and have their place in this landscape. If an individual can pass the federal background checks for possession of a weapon, there should not be further restriction of accessories, especially when legally acquired and documented.

Suppressors are a sound reduction device that highly reduce a weapon's effectiveness in range and ballistics, not a criminally enhancing device. Also, if an individual is going to poach, they are going to do it whether they have a suppressor or not. The language in HB 174 is succinct and accurate.

Possession of a suppressor should not be illegal for those who are law abiding, vetted Montana residents with no criminal background what so ever. Feel free to contact me for follow-up, as desired.

Respectfully submitted, Al Charters, LTC (Retired), U.S. Army Special Forces

Subject: HB 174

From: "LePage, Rick" <rlepage@mt.gov>

Date: Fri, 4 Mar 2011 21:10:36 +0000

To: "gooseno4@yahoo.com" <gooseno4@yahoo.com>

Senator Shockley,

Just wanted to let you know that my wife & I own 5 suppressors that are used on no fewer than 13 firearms. 4 of our shooting friends own 12 suppressors that are used on multiple firearms as well.

As a side note, some of the best suppressors in the world are made right here in Potomac, MT.

Please support HB 174.

Thanks.

Rick LePage
East Helena, MT

Subject: HB 174
From: Paul Deavers <psdeavers@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 7 Mar 2011 14:35:31 -0700
To: "Jim Shockley\" <gooseno4@yahoo.com>
CC: mssa@mtssa.org

Mr. Shockley,

I am a Montana resident (Missoula) and legally own/posses a suppressor. I also know more than a few other people who also own and use suppressors.

I would like to see the law forbidding use of suppressors in the field to be repealed, as suppressed firearms do provide a higher degree of safety (hearing protection) and accuracy (for hunters this would provide a cleaner kill in the field) when used properly.

Regards,

Paul Deavers
1824 Montana St
Missoula, MT 59801