

Opposed

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EXHIBIT 1
DATE 2/13/2013
HB 358

Dear President Obama, Senator Baucus, Senator Tester, Representative Daines, Governor Bullock, and Attorney General Fox.

I have seen brains floating on a river as the result of effectively the same guns to which Mr. Marbut claims all Montanans have a right. It disturbs me that he threatens our first responders with the same result. I am writing this to let you know that I am a Montanan that does respect the U.S. Constitution. I served 26 years in the U.S. Navy, the majority as a reservist commuting to Seattle and San Diego to continue as a Naval Special Warfare Officer. I respect the majority opinion in Heller that recognized limitations on the Second Amendment to include prohibiting the carrying of "dangerous and unusual weapons", which may be found to include the M-16, to which the AR - 15 is modifiable.

I ask that you take some time to explain to Montanans and the nation that Heller only specifically gave the right of a D.C. policeman to have a handgun in his home. I believe the threat contained in Mr. Marbut letter is real, and more first responders and others will die with a high velocity round ripping up his/her body. I believe we arrived at this state of affairs because each of you has failed to explain the U.S. Constitution to Montana's. I listened to Gun Talk yesterday - Marbut is not the only person threatening death if someone attempts to pass legislation impinging on his/her misperception of the Second Amendment. Again, that is a product of leaders' failure to explain what Justice Scalia stated. Please do so. And if you determine that we, as a Nation, should begin to try to bend the curve away from semi-automatic, assault style weapons, I will again go door to door for you.

I add what I begin to write in December on a trip to Connecticut to see the effects of Super Storm Sandy. I arrived December 15th. Math counts, particularly when it comes to a vital issue such as gun violence. To get 30 rounds from a 5-

round magazine requires five magazine changes. Even if you tape two 5 round magazines together, getting to the third magazine provides an opportunity to tackle the shooter. So, in Tucson, it was between magazines (30 round) that the shooter was tackled. Certainly, Dr. Rabold (I.R. 1/7/13) may so exceptional as to switch magazines or revolvers with magnificent speed, but the word is "exceptional".

We have heard many proposals for more armed people in every location – schools, school buses, auditoriums, and campus across the nation. First, note there were two, armed security at Columbine and 32, armed security at Virginia Tech. There are multiple entrances to all schools requiring multiple armed security under the more guns approach. Compounding that fact, in Tucson, an armed individual almost shot, by mistake, the person who was trying to tackle the shooter. In New York City, police wounded nine individuals in the process of taking out the shooter at the Empire State Building. I understand Mr. Marbut of Shooting Sports Association fame, claims to have been capable of identifying and killing with one round the shooter in Newtown before the shooter got off a round – a claim quoted in the Billings Gazette after the Newtown shooting. Would Mr. Marbut have taken out the woman in Denver who brought a gun to school and brandished it in the presence of girls bullying her daughter? And when the first responders come upon the scene in the community where so many have guns, as seems to be the NRA's solution, how do they pick out the bad guy? Just read "Shooting scene 'chaotic' in 1/9/13 I.R.

As a Seal veteran of Vietnam and a former Commanding Officer of a Naval Reserve Special Warfare Unit, I have some, outdated of course, understanding of the live, fire training required to become proficient at capturing or taking out the enemy under fire – whether with an M 16 with a 30 round magazine or a Stoner with 100 round boxes of linked

ammunition. (I understand both can be automatic, but Google conversion of semi-automatic AR-15 to automatic.) Does any police force in America have the funds to adequately train, and re-qualify officers to respond with accurate, targeted fire in a stressful situation involving shooters with semi-automatic weapons with high capacity magazines? Even if so, do we serve our first responders if we fail to make an effort to decrease the presence of semi-automatic guns with high capacity magazines? In response to fatal shootings in New York police training was reviewed. NY Times, 12/9/12. Officers get one day in the tactics house and one day in the tactical village out of 13 days of weapons training. And little time for retraining. That seems to have been insufficient. What part of that training is required for a concealed weapons permit in Montana or for a gun-toting principal under legislation to be proposed this session in Montana? Will teachers substitute the tactics house for grading papers? Will our school bus drivers be as qualified as a Sky Marshall? Both would be shooting in a confined space with rows of scared, frantic people. Does the proposed legislation take into account the cost of arming and training these people to respond in a tactical situation? Then, re-qualifying quarterly. Or is it just a diversion from focusing on the issue of reasonable limits to gun ownership recognized by the U.S. Supreme. 14 year olds were in Militia – what about their rights to bear arms at school? And now the conspiracy theorists have the government planting an AR – 15 at Newtown. (I.R. 1/9/13)

Even if the extra \$500 million in Montana's coffers permit properly arming, training, and consistently re-qualifying all Montana citizens in the weapons tactic house better than New York police, are we not also U.S. Citizens?

I do ask that you, my representatives, think outside the box created by the threats in Mr. Marbut, and the gun industry supported NRA and to provide national solutions that reflect an

understanding of all of the components involved in bending the curve away from the fear of government based, "more guns" solution? John L. Hollow, 800 Second Street, Helena. 406 459 5867.