

March 23, 2023

Re: MN Senate File 2909 Position: **Oppose**

Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), The Firearm Industry Trade Association, I write to express strong opposition to Senate File 2909, especially the provision that relates to magazine capacity.

As the trade association for the firearm industry, NSSF seeks to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. NSSF represents nearly 10,000 member companies, including manufacturers, distributors, firearm retailers, shooting ranges, and sportsmen's organizations. In Minnesota alone in 2022, our industry employed over 13,250 Minnesotans and had an economic impact of over \$3.6 billion in the state.

Among other things, Senate File 2909 seeks to define and ban "large-capacity magazines" that can hold over ten rounds. It would also ban the manufacture, import, or transfer of handguns that can hold more than 15 rounds. As testimony is limited to one page, I will focus on this provision and focus on three primary concerns with it.

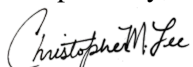
First, the term "large-capacity" is used in this bill to describe a standard capacity magazine, an extremely common tool, with over 300 million in circulation. Additionally, it is entirely common for standard sized pistols to hold over 15 rounds. Because they are so commonly owned, a ban such as this is highly unlikely to be upheld on legal review, in light of recent federal court decisions, especially the Supreme Court's Bruen decision of 2022.

Secondly, standard capacity magazines are an important tool for law-abiding citizens that seek to provide food and protection for themselves and their families. Modern Sporting Rifles (MSRs) that traditionally hold over ten rounds, are regularly used for hunting across the US. These same rifles and pistols that would be labeled "large-capacity" if this bill were to pass are commonly owned for self-defense. Trained law enforcement officers are typically on target between 20% and 30% of the time. That's why they are, and should be equipped with firearms that can hold more rounds than would be permitted by this bill. It is untenable to say that law-abiding citizens don't have a right to defend themselves and their loved with the same tools as police.

Finally, statistics on fatal shootings demonstrate that this provision is based on emotion alone, not fact. According to FBI Homicide Data from 2015-2019, more people were killed in the United States each year with blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.) than with rifles. Roughly twice as many people are killed each year with personal weapons (hands, feet, etc.) than with rifles. Nearly four times as many people are killed each year with knives than with rifles. Additionally, these tools were banned by federal action from 1994-2004 and that ban wasn't renewed because it was clear that it accomplished nothing.

Current restrictions on "large-capacity magazines" are not only ineffective but dangerous. Standard magazines designed for the weapon in question are the most effective tools for lawful defense. I respectfully urge you to oppose this misguided bill.

Respectfully,



Christopher Lee