

KULONGOSKI FOR GOVERNOR

October 1, 2006

Dear _____

Thanks for your postcard regarding my position on the Second Amendment. Like you, I am a strong supporter of an individual's right to keep and bear arms. As a former U.S. Marine, someone who loves the outdoors, and an avid hunter and fisherman, I have a deep appreciation for protecting the rights of firearm owners. Below I have provided answers to the questions you asked. I hope they help you decide how to cast your vote in November.

First, I believe that current firearm laws are sufficient and do not support additional restrictive state legislation. I support the current "Right-to-Carry" law that allows law-abiding citizens to obtain a permit and carry a concealed firearm for self-protection. In fact, I myself completed the permit process to secure a concealed weapon to better understand to what extent this process may create a burden on firearm owners. I also do not think Oregon needs a handgun licensing law.

Second, I do not support adopting a "Castle Doctrine," similar to the law enacted in Florida. As a former state Supreme Court justice, I can appreciate private citizens' concerns about protecting their family and property. But I believe that the current provisions in state law strike the proper balance on the use of deadly force.

Third, the question of confiscation of firearms during a time of "local, state, or national emergency" is complicated by the fact that a number of different situations constitute a state of emergency. However, in the vast majority of such scenarios, such as an earthquake or volcanic eruption, I can see no compelling reason to confiscate firearms.

I hope this answers your questions and clarifies my position on the Second Amendment. Having been a collector of firearms and a hunter, I have had substantial experience as a gun owner in my own life. During my time as Oregon's Attorney General and Governor, I applied that experience in approaching these issues. I hope that I can earn your vote in November.

Sincerely,



Governor Ted Kulongoski