



To: House Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
107 N Main St
LOB Room 202-204
Concord, NH 03301

Re: House Bill 1186 – An Act Relative to Firearm Purchaser's Privacy

Position: Support

Date: January 31, 2024

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

My name is Fred Bird, and I am the Northeastern States Assistant Manager for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) and a New Hampshire resident sportsman. I write to you today in support of House Bill 1186 (HB 1186). Doing so will protect the sportsmen and women of New Hampshire from being tracked or halted by financial institutions when purchasing firearms and ammunition. Hunters and recreational shooters are the backbone of the American System of Conservation Funding through their hunting license purchases and also a manufacturer-level and self-imposed excise tax firearms and ammunition, which is then returned to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for the purpose of managing the state's storied fish and wildlife resources. I respectfully urge the members of this Committee to support the passage of this legislation.

Founded in 1989, CSF is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

For more than 85 years, sportsmen and women have been the primary funders of state-level conservation efforts in New Hampshire and are thus an important constituency that provide benefits for all New Hampshire residents. Enacted in 1937, the Pittman-Robertson Act redirected previously existing excise taxes on firearms and ammunition to a dedicated fund to be used specifically for wildlife conservation purposes. Once collected, the taxes are deposited into the

Wildlife Restoration Account, which is administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), who then apportions funds to all state fish and wildlife agencies for conservation purposes. Under the Pittman-Robertson Act and per the Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax, firearms and ammunition are subjected to a 10-11% excise tax. Ultimately, it was sportsmen and women who decided to avail themselves to this excise tax – a choice prompted in sole consideration of the interest and betterment of the nation’s fish and wildlife, and the habitats that they rely on.

Protecting the personal information of sportsmen and women is paramount to the continued success of the time-honored outdoor traditions that have long been enjoyed by Granite Staters. By prohibiting financial institutions from distinguishing firearm retailers from other general or sporting-goods retailers, as well as prohibiting the existence of a list or registry of privately owned firearms in the State, HB 1186 ensures that hunters may continue to lawfully purchase the sporting equipment needed to partake in the outdoor traditions that have stood as societal pillars in New Hampshire for generations, while simultaneously providing the funds necessary for the Fish and Game Department to carry out its mission.

Without this important consumer protection, hunters and recreational shooters in New Hampshire could be subject to discrimination by financial or anti-sportsmen organizations, which would likely deter participation and decrease critical conservation funding. I respectfully request that the members of this Committee support the passage of House Bill 1186 and protect the privacy of New Hampshire’s sportsmen and women. I appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments and welcome any questions that you may have. Should you require additional information on this, or other sportsmen-related topics, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Bird', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Fred Bird
Northeastern States Assistant Manager | Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation
110 North Carolina Ave, SE | Washington, DC 20003
fbird@congressionalsportsmen.org | 603-583-7454