

February 27, 2024

Representative Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
State House, House Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

H. 7051 Position: Opposed

Re: H. 7051 Shooting Range Zoning

Dear Chair Craven and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The National Shooting Sports Foundation ("NSSF") is the non-profit trade association for America's firearms, ammunition, hunting and recreational shooting sports industry. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding Rhode Island sportsmen, the U.S. military and law enforcement agencies throughout Rhode Island.

This letter is to express our strong opposition to H.7051, regulating gun range operations. The bill seeks to essentially eliminate outdoor ranges within a one-mile radius of any school in the state. This bill is a solution in search of a problem. There have been zero instances of any issues pertaining to outdoor ranges and schools anywhere in the state. This bill will further burden an already over-regulated sector of the business community and most likely lead to the closure of ranges.

NSSF, on behalf of our thousands of member shooting ranges, promotes the development of target shooting facilities and protects the interests of these facilities by providing trusted leadership in information, communication, and partnerships among ranges, industry and communities. We work tirelessly to advance participation in and a better understanding of hunting and the shooting sports; promote the safe and responsible use of firearms and foster a climate supportive of America's traditional firearms rights.

Ranges located throughout Rhode Island provide gun-owners and sportsmen safe places to practice and pass on their heritage to future generations. Shooting ranges benefit the community as a whole- not simply range users- by promoting firearms safety and educating residents on how to safely live with guns.

Rhode Island's range consumers consist of new sportsmen, experienced hunters and competitive target shooters, young individuals new to the shooting sports, and even law enforcement officials.

There is a compelling public need to provide a safe and accessible place for these individuals to go to learn and practice safe and responsible firearms use or to maintain proficiency in their sport or livelihood.

NSSF asks that you help to protect ranges and allow them to remain viable so they can continue to function as safe places to go shooting and educate people on firearms safety.

NSSF hopes the Judiciary Committee will realize the benefits of shooting ranges to the community and oppose H.7051.

Sincerely,



Jake McGuigan