

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 19, 2021

President Joe Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to you today seeking clarification on your Administration's position on the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Recent remarks by Deputy Director for Conventional Arms Threat Reduction, William Malzahn, seem to indicate your intention to rejoin this misguided and overbearing international treaty.

At this year's Seventh Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the Arms Trade Treaty, Deputy Director Malzahn stated, "The United States has long supported strong and effective national controls on the international transfer of conventional arms, and the Arms Trade Treaty is an important tool for promoting those controls internationally." We find this statement to be most concerning and contrary to the current and historical position of the United States.

When President Obama signed the ATT in 2013, he was met with strong bipartisan opposition and failed to garner the approval of the Senate, to which the Constitution vests the sole power to approve international treaties. As Members of the House of Representatives, we were grateful our Senate colleagues came together to reject the treaty with the sole purpose of protecting American sovereignty and our constitutional rights.

However, the same concerns remain today as they did in 2013. The vague language of the ATT makes American commitments uncertain, the most concerning of which is the lack of protections for lawful gun ownership which threatens the rights afforded to Americans under the Second Amendment. Further, with an amendment process that only requires a three-fourths vote for approval by the States Parties actually present at the meeting of COSP, more intrusive provisions could be applied in the future; legally obligating the United States to comply with international commitments without consent from the Senate.

Under any circumstance, it is inconceivable that the United States would consider subjecting our constitutional rights to bear arms to international oversight and interference. For these reasons, we request clarification on your intentions regarding this international accord. Moreover, we urge you to reject the ATT.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns and we look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Dough Lamborn
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
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Alex Mooney
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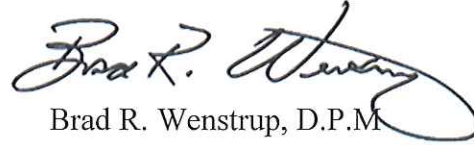


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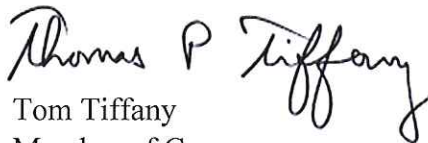
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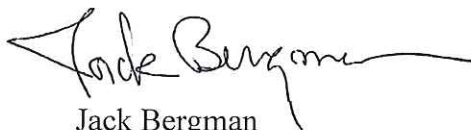
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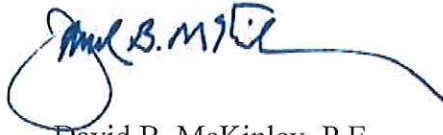
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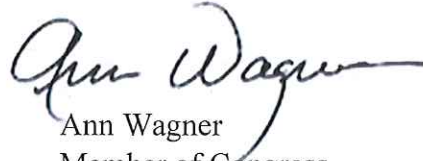
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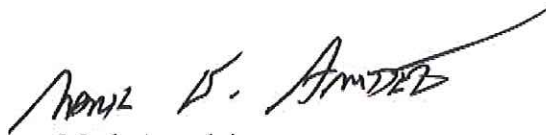
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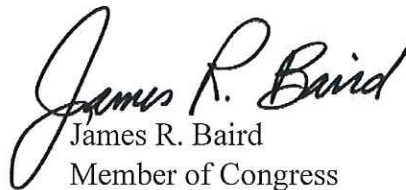
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