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February 16, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, Testimony in Opposition to SB387.

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldsteicher and honorable members of the committee,

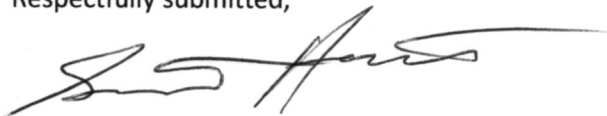
This bill is the wrong solution to the problem of increased violent crime. The increase in "Ghost" guns is a small percentage of guns used in violent crimes. Most of the crimes are committed with illegal guns are from guns with the serial numbers removed or stolen guns. I believe the up tic in home built gun being used in crimes is due to criminal builders making these guns for sale. Look into the case of Robert Alcantara of Providence, Rhode Island. He was caught building and selling ghost guns. Anyone selling a home made gun is committing a felony, under current law. Use the laws on the books to prosecute those criminals selling them. Why would a criminal go to the trouble of buying all the part and tools needed to machine one of these gun. When buying a gun on the black market is so easy. You can go after the people selling these guns with laws already on the books.

You can buy a complete gun for a lot less money, than it costs to build one. It's a hobby. This bill sweeps the lawful home builder into being a criminal. You are proposing taking property without compensation. Imposing excessive fines and prison time for what was lawfully owned property. Forcing a serial number by a FFL with no cost fixed to what can be charged to do the engraving is an unfair burden.

Serial numbers on guns are for traceability in commerce, not for crime. The idea that one of these guns is untraceable is not correct. If one was used in a crime, the ballistic evidence can trace the gun and match it to a crime. Even the ATF cautions the use of trace data.

I asked you for an unfavorable report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Hewitt', written in a cursive style.

Scott Hewitt