DATE: February 5, 2020
BILL NO.: Senate Bill 208
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

TITLE: Public Safety - Rifles and Shotguns - Transactions

POSITION: Oppose

Testimony from: Bradford V. Sharpless

316 Townleigh Road

Reisterstown, MD 21136

Registered Democrat, District 10

SB 208 establishes a broad definition of long gun "transfers." It seeks to impose severe penalties upon otherwise law-abiding citizens who engage in such transfers, which includes instances of the loan of common hunting firearms. As rifles and shotguns of all types are rarely used in the commission of crimes, it is improbable that this bill will result in any measurable reduction in criminal violence. In summary, this bill has substantial negative effects, in the forms of financial expense and administrative burden, upon those who are inclined to obey the law while providing little likelihood of improving public safety in exchange. I request an "unfavorable" vote on SB 208.