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SB 1050 Public Safety – Lost or Stolen Regulated Firearms - Reporting UNFAVORABLE

Citizens who legally own firearms will report the theft or loss of a firearm, not because to aids in an investigation, but rather to increase the chances the firearm will be returned to them and more importantly, to protect themselves from being implicated in any subsequent crime involving the use of their stolen firearm.

Persons who are illegally in possession of a firearm will not report the loss or theft of a firearm, much less a firearm they have transferred illegally. Do so would subject them to prosecution and penalties far in excess of those contemplated in this misguided bill. The problem with proving when the person "discovered" the alleged loss or theft is compounded by the 5th Amendment protections regarding self-incrimination. (Haynes v. United States)

It is our view that SB 1050 is simple a facet of this Session's large package of punitive gun control legislation which has nothing to do with public safety or reducing crime and everything to do with making the legal ownership of firearms and daunting and intimidating as possible.

We ask for an unfavorable report.

John H. Josselyn, Director 2A Maryland March 12, 2020