

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

January 22, 2020

Delegate Luke Clippinger
House Office Building, Room 101
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 35

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

The National Rifle Association (NRA) does not oppose innovation in firearm technology, we encourage it. However, the NRA strongly opposes mandatory tracking technology on new or currently owned firearms. Gun owners and the firearms marketplace should determine the future course of firearms technology, not the government.

While purporting to task the state police with merely studying “firearm telematics,” it appears that the intent of this legislation is to push this technology for mandatory adoption. For instance, the legislation states that the state police should “evaluate the technical feasibility of incorporating firearm telematics with previously manufactured firearms.” This language suggests that lawmakers are contemplating a mandate to force current gun owners to adopt such technology on currently possessed firearms. The mandatory application of such technology would amount to firearm registration. Aside from diminishing gun owners’ privacy, registration facilitates firearm confiscation.

In addition to these concerns, it is unclear who will be forced to pay for this tracking technology. If mandated, the cost of administering this system will fall either as a further tax on law-abiding gun owners or on the public as a whole. For these, and a number of other reasons, the NRA strongly opposes House Bill 35.

Sincerely,

David Weber
Maryland State Director
NRA-ILA

