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Honorable members of the Maryland State Senate, on the topic of SB0387 “Public Safety – Untraceable Firearms” I aim to provide testimony against the proposed bill.

I am a mechanical engineer by trade, and a hobbyist in privately-made firearms. I am a legal gun owner, and I have a state issued Handgun Qualification License. I am fascinated by the history of firearms innovation, and I greatly appreciate the freedom to learn and challenge myself in the design and manufacture of novel firearms.

I understand that any firearm I create is bound by many state and federal firearms laws. The sale or gifting of any privately made firearm (unless serialized by a Federal Firearm Licensee [FFL]) is already a federal felony.

SB0387 is highly concerning to me because it bans the possession of privately-made unserialized firearms after January 1st, 2023. To continue my hobby I would be required to serialize any firearm I create. The bill does not mention the amount of time allotted between the creation of a firearm and the serialization of said item. If I create a firearm on Friday, but the FFL is not open until Monday, am I a felon for the weekend?

Furthermore, engraving of serial numbers to the federal standard is a difficult process that requires an expensive engraving machine. I am concerned that FFL’s will not be willing to serialize my firearms due to the risk of liability to them, should there be some unfortunate mishap following serialization.

Finally, I find the benefit to the safety of the public of criminalizing privately-made firearms to be very small. The Justice Department reported recently that between 2016 and 2020, firearms without serial numbers were linked to 325 homicides or attempted homicides. That means about 80 homicides & *attempted homicides* per year in the entire country are linked to unserialized firearms, many of which are likely not privately-made but factory-made with serial numbers ground off. This is a very small fraction of the approximately 20,000 gun-related homicides in the US each year.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Brown