

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Outdoor Pro Shop LLC, we strongly oppose HB 0387 and HB 0937, which propose raising the excise tax and sales tax on firearms, ammunition, and certain accessories in the state of Maryland. These bills place an undue financial burden on responsible firearm owners and directly harm small businesses like ours, which are already struggling in today's economic climate.

As a small business, we rely on fair and reasonable taxation to remain competitive. Increasing the excise and sales tax on firearms and related products will:

- **Hurt Small Businesses & Jobs:** Many small, family-owned firearm and sporting goods retailers operate on thin margins. This tax hike will discourage lawful purchases, leading to declining sales and potential layoffs within our industry. Unlike large corporations, small businesses cannot absorb these costs.
- **Drive Business Out of Maryland:** Customers will turn to neighboring states with lower tax rates or online retailers, bypassing Maryland's local businesses altogether. This will result in lost revenue not just for firearm-related sales but also for associated hunting, sporting, and outdoor recreation industries.
- **Disproportionately Impact Law-Abiding Citizens:** These increased taxes will not deter crime but will instead penalize responsible gun owners, hunters, and sports shooters who follow the law. It unfairly places the burden of Maryland's overspending on law-abiding citizens rather than addressing the root causes of fiscal mismanagement.

Instead of implementing policies that stifle small businesses and punish responsible consumers, we urge lawmakers to focus on measures that address the real issues affecting Maryland's economy. Burdening businesses and citizens with excessive taxation is not the solution.

We strongly encourage you to oppose HB 0387 and HB 0937 to protect Maryland's small businesses and preserve the rights of responsible firearm owners.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your support in rejecting these harmful bills.

Respectfully,

**Kevin Cook**

**Owner / CEO**

**Outdoor Pro Shop, LLC**