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**March 27, 2012**

Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Committee  
c/o Tom Casperson  
State Senator, 38th District  
Michigan Senate  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Casperson:

As a federally licensed firearms dealer and sportsman, I write in support of Senate Bill 984. The current Michigan law limiting Michigan sales of long guns only to residents of contiguous states is a remnant of a long-repealed federal statute so limiting such sales.

It makes no sense and serves no purpose other than to place Michigan firearms dealers at a disadvantage relative to those of other states and deprive Michigan's economy of tax revenue, both sales and income.

For example, Cabela's in Dundee is one of the largest firearms dealers in Michigan. They are located on the route many out-of-state hunters must take to access hunting in both peninsulas. Each year (and I know from looking at license plates) hunters come to Michigan from West Virginia, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and many other states. If their shotgun or rifle breaks, or they just want to acquire another, Cabela's has to say "sorry, no gun for you and no sales tax for Michigan and no business tax on our profit, either."

Also, it is ambiguous and virtually unenforced. By ambiguous, consider whether Illinois and Michigan are "contiguous". I can go from one to the other without passing through any other state, but I have to do it by boat or plane. By unenforced, has there ever been prosecution for a violation of the current statute?

Anyway, thanks for your attention.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Atkinson