



April 11, 2023

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

House Bill 61

State Affairs Committee

Representative Laddie Shaw, Chair

Representative Stanley Wright, Vice Chair

Representative Ben Carpenter, Member

Representative Craig Johnson, Member

Representative Jamie Allard, Member

Representative Jennie Armstrong, Member

Representative Andi Story, Member

Chair Shaw, Vice Chair Wright, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Good afternoon. I am Carmela Warfield, and I am testifying today in my official capacity as Executive Vice President of Alaska Policy Forum (APF). Alaska Policy Forum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and a nonpartisan state policy think tank. We do not receive public funds. Specifically, I am offering testimony in support of establishing safeguards that preserve and protect Alaskans' right to keep and bear arms, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, and to prevent the infringement upon these rights during a disaster emergency declaration.

Alaska Policy Forum's mission is to empower and educate Alaskans and policymakers by promoting policies that grow freedom for all. As a component of our mission, we are supportive of policies that preserve the freedoms afforded to us as Alaskans and as Americans.

Firearms are an essential tool used by Alaskans to defend our families and property, and provide us with the ability to feed our families and communities by hunting and harvesting wild food resources. During times of disasters or official emergencies,



many local resources may be limited or reduced. As we have seen, during these times, our state's supply chain connection to the lower forty-eight contiguous states can be interrupted for undetermined periods of time.

It is critical that Alaskans have the ability to protect and defend themselves and their property, and to ensure their families and communities have food security, with access to sufficient food to meet their nutritional and dietary needs.

A crucial part of providing for defense of family and property, and providing sustenance and nutrition is having access to the appropriate tools, which include firearms, firearms accessories and shooting range access, to increase one's proficiency in usage methods. Alaskans should have the peace of mind that they can defend themselves and provide for their families and communities, especially during unprecedented times of emergency.

Restrictions on firearms and firearms accessories during official emergencies, for citizens that are legally permitted and afforded the protection of these rights, would undermine and infringe upon these fundamental freedoms.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Carmela Warfield
Executive Vice President

