COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

RICHMOND

March 27, 2018

Hon. Corey A. Stewart Chairman's Office 1 County Complex Court Prince William, VA 22192

Hon. Martin E. Nohe Coles District Office 13476 Dumfries Road Manassas, VA 20112

Hon. Jeanine Lawson Brentsville District Office 9440 Innovation Dr. Manassas, VA 20110

Hon. Pete Candland Gainesville District Office 7001 Heritage Village Plaza, Suite 210 Gainesville, VA 20155 Hon. John D. Jenkins Neabsco District Office 4361 Ridgewood Center Woodbridge, VA 22192

Hon. Ruth M. Anderson Occoquan District Office 2241-K Tackett's Mill Drive Woodbridge, VA 22192

Hon. Maureen S. Caddigan Potomac District Office 15941 Donald Curtis Drive Woodbridge, VA 22191

Hon. Frank J. Principi Woodbridge District Office 15941 Donald Curtis Drive Woodbridge VA 22191

Re: Banning loaded firearms on highways

Dear Mr. Chairman and Hon. Supervisors:

Section 15.2-915.2 of the Code of Virginia gives all local governments in Virginia the authority to ban loaded shot guns and assault rifles on public highways.

§ 15.2-915.2. Regulation of transportation of a loaded rifle or shotgun.

The governing body of any county or city may by ordinance make it unlawful for any person to transport, possess or carry a loaded shotgun or loaded rifle in any vehicle on any public street, road, or highway within such locality...

A similar ordinance has been enacted in the counties of Fauquier, Loudoun, Madison, Albemarle, Chesterfield, Clarke, James City, King George, New Kent, Northumberland, Surry, Warren and the cities of Alexandria, Williamsburg. Fredericksburg, Peterburg, Richmond, Roanoke, and Virginia Beach.

Existing Prince William ordinances prohibit carrying a loaded shotgun in boats inside Prince William County. This should be extended to vehicles on public roads.

We do not believe that there is a need for loaded shotguns or AR-15's on Prince William County's roads, especially given our traffic and the high emotions that can often come with traffic congestion.

Moreover, given recent events, we do not believe our laws should enable faster movement, loading or deployment for any terrorist who exits their vehicle to start shooting. This is a common sense restriction which has broad support throughout Prince William County.

Shotguns and rifles in vehicles also pose risk to our law enforcement. In 2006, Virginia State Trooper Kevin C. Manion was killed after a rifle went off during a wreck cleanup in Clark County. Trooper Manion's first assignment was in Prince William County

We hereby ask that you initiate the processes necessary to change Prince William Counties ordinances to prohibit the transportation of loaded shotguns and rifles to the full extent possible under Virginia Law.

Very Truly Yours,

Senator Scott A. Surovell 36th District

Senator Jeremy S. McPike 29th District

Senator George L. Barker 39th District

Delegate Lee J. Carter 50th District

Delegate Hala S. Ayala

51st District

Delegate Jennifer D. Carroll Foy 2nd District

Delegate Danica A. Roem

13th District

Delegate Elizabeth R. Guzman

Take E. Zorian

31st District

Delegate Luke E. Torian

52nd District

Delegate John J. Bell

87th District