

Dear _____,

Thank you for the opportunity to write to you regarding Bill C-21, particularly amendments G4 and G-46. I fully support the intent of Bill C-21 to develop a comprehensive strategy to end gun violence and invest in solutions associated with mental health and criminal behaviour. However, the key word in that intent is “violence” rather than “guns” and I do not support these amendments which target responsible, ethical, highly trained and generational firearms owners and do very little to address those who obtain firearms illegally and/or those with criminal objectives.

As a member of the Resource Tourism industry, I am deeply concerned the proposed amendments would eliminate my guests’ pursuit of positive experiences and memories. Resource Tourism is an important economic driver in Manitoba; an industry that employs trained and licensed guides to ensure guests are offered the very best of Manitoba, including highly sought-after hunting opportunities.

I/we estimate 75-95% of my/our guests come from outside of Canada for these hunting opportunities and they embody the same responsibilities as I/we do. The overwhelming majority transport their own firearm for reasons including comfort, familiarity with safety features, and experience with their own equipment. By now, we have all seen amendment G-46 and its list of suggested firearms proposed to be prohibited, which includes dozens of makes and models that have been used safely for decades, often in remote areas. Considering ownership of the vast majority of firearms in Canada will not be changing overnight, it seems unreasonable to suggest possession of that same firearm would suddenly be considered illegal anywhere in Canada.

We, Resource Tourism Operators (RTO), are primarily small businesses and family operations in rural Manitoba providing export tourism-related services. After two years of travel restrictions and public health mandates, the sector overall is nowhere near the economic health it had in 2019 and through no fault of our own, we were already considering the viability of our business. Eliminating access to products essential for our operations could eliminate our business completely, negatively impacting the local economy in [MY AREA] and, by extension, the province and the country. We are also Canadian residents, recreationists and conservationists who take our ambassadorship seriously while employing 2,400 Manitobans and providing a provincial economic output of \$342M. These amendments affect not only RTOs in Manitoba, but the \$5.5B Outfitting sector in Canada and the 37,250 Canadians it directly and indirectly employs.

I urge you to consider these points when discussing Bill C-21 amendments G4 and G46 and to prevent their passage through the legislative process. I am confident there is a workable solution for the overall intent of Bill C-21, and I encourage comprehensive engagement to focus on solutions to end violence in this country before final decisions are made.

Sincerely,
