



June 14, 2019

President Donald Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the American Suppressor Association, we write to you today to express our sincere concerns regarding your recent comments about suppressors. In 2016, the firearms community was the cornerstone of your base. We turned out to the polls in droves because you gave the country your word that you would protect and defend the Second Amendment. Further exploration of a ban on suppressors, which would require legislation, would be tantamount to abandoning that pledge. It would drive an irreconcilable wedge between gun owners and your administration, alienating the very base you need in 2020. Rather than succumbing to fake news, we ask that you allow us to dispel the anti-gun myths and misconceptions about suppressors that many liberals in Hollywood and the mainstream media want you to believe.

Also known as silencers, moderators, mufflers, and cans, suppressors are hearing protection devices that reduce the sound of a gunshot to less dangerous levels. In fact, like hundreds of thousands of law-abiding Americans, your sons and grandchildren use suppressors to help protect their hearing while hunting and recreationally shooting. When asked why he uses suppressors, Donald Trump Jr. said, "it's about safety". Regardless of what they are called, it is important to note that no device can actually silence the noise of a gunshot. Even the quietest suppressed gunshots are as loud or louder than a jackhammer striking cement.

Suppressors, which are classified as firearms under Federal law, are among the most heavily regulated items in the country. Nonetheless, there are over 1,650,000 legally obtained suppressors in circulation in the 42 states where they are currently legal to own. In order to purchase a suppressor, buyers must live in a state where they are legal, send in an application including fingerprints and passport photos to ATF, pay a \$200 transfer tax, notify their Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO), pass an FBI NICS background check, and wait an indeterminate amount of time for ATF to process the application. As of June 2019, average wait times range between 5 to 18 months.

The existing regulations on suppressors are already bad enough; the excessive wait times, burdensome application process, and \$200 tax deter hundreds of thousands of gun owners from buying suppressors each year. Every component of every suppressor in circulation within the U.S. is made entirely in America. Instead of bans, we should discuss ways that we can work together to modernize the regulations, advance personal liberties, and create thousands of new American jobs.

Mr. President, we would like nothing more than to continue supporting and working together with your administration. On behalf of the firearms community, we ask for your support as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Knox Williams
President & Executive Director
American Suppressor Association