The Ammunition Ban

By Gale Joy

Constitution Party of Ohio

The Constitution Party of Ohio upholds the right and responsibility of its citizens to keep and bear arms. We oppose attempts to prohibit ownership of guns by law-abiding citizens, and stand against all laws which would require the registration of guns or ammunition.

As this is being written, the Obama Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) are proposing a ban on certain ammo with the exception of its use by the military and law enforcement agencies. This ban combined with other unconstitutional weapon bans creates yet another oppressive action by our government and clearly defines their actions as tyrannical based on the tenets of our founding fathers and framers of the US Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The 2nd Amendment is very clear when it states \textit{the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed}. Furthermore, Article I Section 4 of the Ohio Constitution states, \textit{The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security.}

Notice that the Ohio Constitution does not say How we can defend ourselves; Where we can defend ourselves; What we can defend ourselves with; or, Who we can defend ourselves from. The only thing that it does state is \textit{What} and that is we have the Right to defend ourselves and provide for our own security.
The ATF is justifying the latest ammunition ban claiming it to be armor piercing and able to be loaded in a handgun and concealed. They are using current legislation created under the auspices of protecting law enforcement officers from harm. They are stating that under the “Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act of 1986” that they have the ability to ban certain ammunition based on the ability for said ammunition to be armor piercing. They state that the LEOPA allows them to identify and ban ammunition based on what the ammunition has as its core material; thus all steel core ammunition can be banned. What they neglect to say is that in some parts of the country, lead core ammunition has been banned because it is poisoning certain types of animals and harming the environment. Because of this lead core ammunition has been banned from use in “Sportsman” activities and steel core ammunition then must be used.

So which is it, do we follow the law and protect the environment and stop using lead core ammunition? Or are we to neglect the environmental impact and continue using steel core ammunition? Perhaps, the answer is to ban all ammunition that is harder than wet paper.

Not only is this yet another unconstitutional infringement of our endowed rights; it is also most likely an act designed to create precedent for future bans on our ammunition choices. Therefore, the Constitution Party of Ohio calls on the Ohio Attorney General and Ohio Governor to condemn this measure and work with the Ohio legislature to draft legislation barring all federal action on unconstitutional measures to restrict our God given rights.

Additionally, we call on our Active duty military members from Ohio and elsewhere, Ohio National Guard and Reserve members, County Sheriffs, local Police Departments, and Ohio State Highway Patrol members to condemn any and all legislation that restrict our right of weapon and ammunition ownership.

Most of the groups and personnel listed, as well as many of those that are reading this article have sworn or affirmed an Oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the
United States and/or the Ohio Constitution. That oath has no expiration date. You have given a solemn promise that you will do your duty to protect those documents and the rights guaranteed by them.

To the Police Officers throughout the country, regardless of the danger that you are put in, it is still your duty to obey that oath or you have the responsibility to resign from your position and state that in your resignation. To allow legislation to be enacted in your name to provide a small amount of security for yourself is no excuse for your willingness to disobey your solemn oath. As Benjamin Franklin so eloquently put it "They that give up essential liberty for temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." ~Thomas Jefferson~

*Tyranny is defined as that which is legal for the government but illegal for the citizenry.* ~Thomas Jefferson~