



May 20, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write about a pending retransfer request from the Government of Korea for United States-origin, World War II-era firearms. We understand that this retransfer request has been awaiting approval from the White House for some time. This request involves a long-negotiated agreement with the South Korean government to proceed with the disposition of a number of World War II era M1 Garand rifles to an American company, Century Arms, Inc. of Georgia, Vermont.

Century Arms was the successful bidder for these rifles being sold by the Korean Government. The Korean Government was given preliminary approval of the transaction by the Department of State. Our offices have been advised that all relevant agencies, including the Departments of State, Defense, and Justice, have cleared this transaction. Shortly after choosing Century Arms as the successful bidder, the Korean Government promptly submitted to the Department of State its request for the retransfer of the M1 Garands in the United States. That submission occurred almost one year ago. We respectfully urge you to give your approval to this agreement.

The M1 Garand is a World War II-era rifle that has not been produced in over fifty years. Many that remain in existence are currently outside of the United States. The importation of historic and conventional small arms, such as the M1 Garand, has been permitted by the Department of State, in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives, under a policy of presumptive approval for the retransfer of such firearms since 2003.

The M1 Garand rifle is also an historically valuable and collectible firearm and is used and provided to citizens through the government-chartered Civilian Marksmanship Program. Moreover, an exemption for the M1 Garand rifles from the list of prohibited firearms was contained in Senator Feinstein's proposed Assault Weapons Ban of 2013. This proposed exemption reinforces the fact that these are collectible firearms not the target of law enforcement concern.

Every firearm covered by this transaction would be processed through the strict requirements of the Gun Control Act of 1968. This includes being entered into required

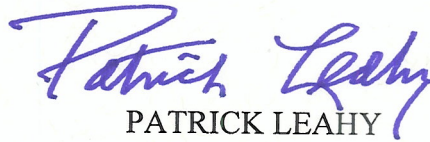
federal recordkeeping, properly marked by the importer for full ATF traceability, and transferred to Federal Firearms Dealers who would then conduct federal background checks for any potential purchaser.

This lawful pending retransfer agreement is important to Vermont's economy and crucial to more than 200 Vermonters who are employed by Century Arms. Accordingly, we ask your assistance to return the retransfer request to the Department of State without objection so that it may move forward through the importation process. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



PETER SHUMLIN
Governor of Vermont



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator