



May 12, 2015

Governor Mark Dayton  
Office of the Governor & Lt. Governor  
116 Veterans Service Building  
20 W 12th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

We are writing in response to your statement regarding suppressor legislation in Minnesota, in which you said, “to allow gunshots to be silenced increases the danger to law enforcement officers, and to innocent bystanders.” Although we do not doubt that you made this statement in good faith, it unfortunately seems that you have succumbed to the widespread misinformation and misconceptions that are based more in Hollywood hype than in reality.

To start, suppressors, also known as silencers, do not silence anything. Although the terms are used interchangeably, no device can eliminate the noise of a gunshot. Even the most effective suppressor on the quietest caliber can only reduce the report of a firearm to around 110 decibels. For reference, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), jackhammers also register at 110 dB. To our knowledge, no one has ever accused a jackhammer of being silent.

On your gubernatorial website, it states that you have “worked throughout [Minnesota] to help businesses locate or expand and create jobs.” Minnesota is home to numerous firearm manufacturers, distributors, and dealers who collectively employ thousands. Legalizing suppressors will generate opportunities for these businesses to create new jobs.

Your fellow Democrat, Governor Steve Bullock similarly believed that suppressors could silence a firearm when he vetoed suppressor hunting legislation in Montana in 2013. However, once he became properly educated on the issue, he reversed course and even urged the Montana legislature to legalize their use in the field this session. He wrote,

“The public perception of suppressors as the same thing as silencers, where the assassin quietly dispatches his victim, no longer holds true. Suppressors mitigate the sound of a shot, but do not silence it.”

Gov. Bullock’s change of opinion wasn’t ideological, it was educational. Suppressor ownership is legal in thirty-nine states, including North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. We call on you to follow Gov. Bullock’s example by deciding to learn the facts about suppressors before vetoing legislation that reaches your desk. Should you be interested, we are happy to host a suppressor demonstration at the time and place of your choosing. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Knox Williams  
President & Executive Director  
American Suppressor Association



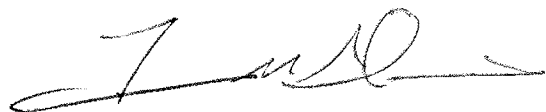
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Shelly Binstock, President  
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