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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 support legislation currently pending in the legislature to allow qualified Minnesotans to possess and use suppressors, and would encourage you to sign this legislation should it reach your desk.

Federal Premium Ammunition has been located in Anoka, Minnesota since 1922 and we currently employ approximately 1700 Minnesotans.

Current law prohibits possession of firearms suppressors, often called silencers, and this state prohibition has a negative impact on our business. We manufacture a number of ammunition products specifically intended for use in suppressed firearms by law enforcement, the military and civilian target shooters in the 39 states where suppressors are legal. However, we are unable to test these products in our facility because we are prohibited from possessing suppressors. As a result we have to outsource this testing work out of state.

Suppressors are gaining in popularity among civilian shooters in the US, and many locations in Europe actually require their use for hunting. Reducing the noise from the muzzle can reduce the risk of hearing loss, and can reduce the nuisance complaints from neighbors of shooting ranges.

Suppressors do not silence firearms, and the noise generated by super-sonic projectiles is not affected at all. Suppressors make firearms more difficult to conceal as they significantly extend their overall length. There is no data to indicate that suppressors will contribute to crime, and federal laws regulating suppressors provide significant disincentives to use suppressed weapons in crimes.

Again, we hope that you will sign this legislation should it reach your desk. It will be good for Minnesota jobs and the hearing health of Minnesota shooters.

Sincerely,

David White
Vice President
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