## Infringements Against America's Hunters H.R. 8 – "Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021"

## Stated Purpose:

The stated purpose of this Act is to utilize the current background checks process in the United States to ensure individuals prohibited from gun purchase or possession are not able to obtain firearms.

## Exceptions to the Background Checks Requirement:

H.R. 8 contains provisions for exceptions to the background checks requirement for temporary transfers if the transferor has no reason to believe that the transferee will use or intends to use the firearm in a crime or is prohibited from possessing firearms under State and Federal law. HOWEVER, THE EXCEPTIONS TO THIS LAW ARE CONFUSING AND RIPE FOR ABUSE BY REGULATORY AGENCIES.

## Unintended Consequences and Opportunities for Abuse by Regulatory Agencies:

Transfers at shooting ranges, for farming/ranching, other rural activities, and in hunting situations <u>"appear"</u> to be exempted from this law. However, the language in the actual bill leaves room to criminalize activities and practices that have been common in America for Centuries. Like most Legislation written by Congress, this Act leaves significant room for interpretation by Regulatory Agencies. There are an unlimited number of possible ways that a law-abiding and well-meaning American hunter could violate this law and go to prison. It is impossible to list all these "traps", but a few are listed below.

- 1. You hand your firearm to a friend for safety purposes while crossing a fence, and unknown to you, your friend is prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a firearm.
- 2. You loan a firearm to a friend for hunting, and the friend happens to have the wrong hunting license.
- 3. You loan a firearm to a friend, and the friend accidentally trespasses.
- 4. Your friend is not immediately in your "presence" when using the firearm. .
- 5. Authorities deem that it was not "reasonably necessary" to transfer a firearm because the hunter could have hunted with archery equipment.
- 6. You loan a friend a firearm for sighting-in or target practicing on public or private land and not at a licensed gun range.
- 7. You allow any prohibited person to handle or use your firearm (even if you didn't know they were prohibited from having a firearm).
- 8. You hand your friend a firearm while cleaning it, and then go into another room to get supplies. They are no longer in your "presence".
- 9. You hand your firearm to a hunting partner who is a veteran, and unknown to you, he or she has been stripped of their firearms rights by a Veterans Administration bureaucrat (a common problem in America at this time).