The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

*June 11, 2021*

Governor Abbot,

We are gravely concerned to see President Biden weaponizing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) against Texas gun owners. These policies represent an infringement of our constitutionally-protected rights and pose an immense threat to an enormous number of Texans who currently legally own these items.

ATF’s Proposed Rule entitled *Definition of “Frame or Receiver” and Identification of Firearms* would take a significant step toward a national gun registry by requiring FFL dealers to maintain personal gun owner information and records of firearm transfer information including makes, models, and serial numbers forever without an act of Congress.

It would also expand the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to apply to gun parts—not just to the frame or receiver of a firearm—contradicting the statute and clear intent of Congress with its repeal of the *Federal Firearms Act’s* regulation of gun parts and enactment of the *Gun Control Act* to regulate a single firearm part.

ATF’s latest Proposed Rule entitled *Factoring Criteria for Firearms With Attached “Stabilizing Braces”* would ban 40 million pistols and AR15-style firearms by reversing over eight years of interpretive guidance and would do so without an act of Congress. The ATF’s proposed redefinition would redefine these to be short-barreled rifles, making it a federal felony to simply possess them apart from following onerous regulations.

Short-barreled rifles should not be regulated under the National Firearms Act (NFA), and the NFA itself encroaches on important rights and should be repealed. Yet the Biden administration continues to add more commonly used firearms and accessories to its strict regulatory framework of gun and gun owner registration—threatening to make felons of countless honest Texans. We can only expect more of the same from this administration.

Earlier this year, you called for Texas to become a Second Amendment Sanctuary. In response, the Texas Legislature passed HB 2622, authored by Representative Justin Holland and sponsored by Senator Bob Hall. This legislation could not have come at a better time. Texas Attorney General Paxton has already pledged to do all he can to stop the proposed pistol brace regulation. We applaud this strong stand to protect Texans’ gun rights.

We write today to urge you to fully utilize the provisions of HB 2622 to defend Texans from the unconstitutional infringements of President Biden’s rogue federal bureaucrats. We call on you to pledge to remove state funding from every Texas agency or political subdivision that attempts in any way to assist in enforcing any of President Biden’s offensive, tyrannical gun control agenda, including the above-mentioned proposed regulations. And we urge you to warn every state agency, political subdivision, law enforcement officer or other person employed by an agency of this state or a political subdivision of this state to not participate in any such enforcement scheme.

President Biden’s radical gun control agenda is unconscionable.

We welcome your strong leadership to ensure that, regardless of any actions of the federal government, Texans’ right to keep and bear arms is not infringed.

Signatures