

# WISCONSIN FORCE

Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs and Educators, Inc.

Executive Director

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February 13, 2014

Relating to: 2014 Range Protection Act SB-527

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Wisconsin FORCE (Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs, and Educators Inc.) enthusiastically supports SB-527. It is a common sense addition to Wisconsin's current range protection. As the official State Chartered NRA organization, we have made the issue of continued public access to shooting ranges a high priority. This bill will assure that ranges cannot be harassed out of existence by unfriendly local governments or neighbors.

SB-527 specifically expands current "grandfather" exemptions from local regulations to include shoreland zoning laws. Current law already has "grandfather" clauses applying to local zoning and noise ordinances.

It provides that board members of shooting clubs, their advisers, and firearms educators are immune from liability concerning actions arising from the negligent acts of a user of the range.

It further requires that owners or operators report any potential criminally negligent acts to law enforcement. Lastly, it provides owners, operators, and users immunity from actions related to the depositing of bullets or shot on the lands controlled by the range. These actions many times are filed to harass a club out of existence. It specifies that this bill does not affect the property rights of neighboring parcels.

Wisconsin's ranges are often run by gun clubs whose board members are volunteers. These protections will help ensure that these clubs can continue to be an asset to their communities.

Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs, and Educators Inc. encourages you to pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Nass

Executive Director

Wisconsin Firearm Owners,

Ranges, Clubs and Educators, Inc.