



March 26, 2020

Assemblymember Reginald Jones-Sawyer
Chairman
Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: AB 3058 (Chu) Firearms Storage Requirements in Vehicles – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Jones-Sawyer:

The California Waterfowl Association must oppose AB 3058 (Chu), which would require all shotguns and rifles in an unattended vehicle to be secured in a lock box or by a chain or cable that is permanently affixed to the vehicle. This bill would place unnecessary and burdensome restrictions on licensed hunters, particularly those who drive SUVs that lack a trunk.

During wet weather, waterfowl hunters often leave their shotguns uncased after hunting to allow the firearms to dry out and prevent damage from rust. Hunters who travel on forest service or other rural roads would also be negatively impacted by AB 3058's requirements.

Prior to obtaining a hunting license, every person must take a 10-hour safety course and pass a test. In light of this and other longstanding safety requirements, hunting-related accidents with firearms are rare in California <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunter-Education/Stats> and almost never involve non-hunting members of the public. Clearly, licensed hunters already handle their responsibly and safely.


Furthermore, firearms are valuable possessions and hunters know how to protect them against theft in ways that are effective and practical. The Legislature does not have to override the common sense and generations of knowledge employed by hunters in securing their firearms in vehicles.

Several parts of the Penal Code exempt licensed hunters from various firearm-related restrictions and requirements. Most recently, in 2018, Penal Code Section 27510 was amended by SB 1100 (Portantino) to exempt licensed hunters from the new requirement that a person must be 18 years old to purchase a long gun. However, AB 3058 contains no such exemption.

California Waterfowl works to restore wetlands, and to maximize the food and habitat value of existing wetlands for both local breeding populations and migratory waterfowl. California Waterfowl believes that hunters are the driving force for wetland conservation. CWA works to ensure that Californians have adequate access to hunting lands, and that regulations and laws don't stifle responsible, ethical hunting.

California Waterfowl urges your "No" vote on AB 3058. If you would like further information about California Waterfowl and its conservation programs, please contact Jeffrey Volberg at (916) 217-5117 or jvolberg@calwaterfowl.org or Mark Hennelly at (916) 648-1406 or mhennelly@calwaterfowl.org.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Volberg
Director of Water Law & Policy

