

COPY



STATE OF ARKANSAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Mike Huckabee
Governor

April 27, 2005

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I am writing to express my concerns about SB 357, "An act to amend Section 11106 of, and to add Sections 12313, 12314, 12315, and 12315.1 to, the Penal Code, relating to ammunition," which is currently pending in the State Assembly.

Under this legislation, all handgun ammunition that is "manufactured, imported into the state for sale or personal use, kept for sale, offered or exposed for sale, sold, given, lent, or possessed" in California would have to be serialized. Each round would have to bear an identifier on the casing and bullet unique to its package.

There's a question as to whether serialization can be safely conducted in a manufacturing atmosphere, where utmost care must be taken to prevent the possibility of an explosion. The serialization requirement would also have a devastating impact on the industry. To mark each round would require the scuttling of a highly refined system that produces eight billion rounds a year while devoted to high quality control standards. A manufacturer faced with meeting these requirements could not afford to do so. Our state is one of many where ammunition is manufactured. I have toured one of the major manufacturing plants and cannot imagine it being practical to serialize each cartridge.

My administration has reflected my high regard for law enforcement and homeland security. But because there is no safe, feasible way to implement the requirements of this bill, I do not believe it is justified. I urge you to oppose this measure.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature of Mike Huckabee in dark ink.
Mike Huckabee

MH:omf:pwc