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VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

September 23, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:


As you may be aware, the government of the Republic of Korea has requested the authority to sell to U.S. buyers 87,310 M1 Garands and 770,160 M1 Carbines, which were used by U.S. and Korean forces during the Korean War. The State Department has to date blocked the importation of these firearms based on law enforcement concerns.

I write to request that you reconsider this decision. The importation of these antique firearms, which were originally used during WWII, does not pose a security threat to our nation. Hundreds of thousands of these firearms are already in the United States, and substantially more advanced and powerful firearms are readily available. While I support measures to ensure that dangerous criminals and the mentally ill do not have access to firearms, I do not believe that blocking the importation of these rifles serves either of these goals.

These rifles are sought-after, American-made collectibles that many of our nation's veterans and their families would like to own. As well as being excellent hunting and target shooting rifles, they are also an important part of our history. Allowing the importation and sale of these rifles from Korea should reduce the market price of these rifles, making them affordable for hunters, target shooters and collectors.

I would be happy to work with you to ensure that the importation and sale of these rifles into the United States occurs through the appropriate channels and that the sales of the firearms occur in a manner which complies with all background checks and other firearm sale requirements. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Webb  
United States Senator