

# GrassRoots GunRights

P.O. Box 2446 Lexington, SC 29071 <http://www.SCFirearms.org>

February 13, 2008

The Honorable Mike Pitts  
South Carolina House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 11867  
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: H. 4631

Dear Mike,

GrassRoots opposes H. 4631 as currently drafted. H. 4631 - of which you are a co-sponsor - repeals the state firearms preemption law. This would allow every local government in South Carolina to pass whatever gun control laws they so desired. A gun owner could drive from one place in South Carolina to another and never know whether he was breaking the law or not unless he first researched the local laws of every county and municipality that he drove through immediately before making the drive since the laws can change without notice. This is a tremendous threat to gun owners. This is unacceptable to GrassRoots members, and I sincerely doubt it is acceptable to you either.

H. 4631 replaces the firearms preemption with language allowing property owners or their designee to shoot dangerous animals on their property if they own at least 25 acres of contiguous land. A similar bill - S. 1039 - has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Danny Verdin. S. 1039 does not repeal the state firearms preemption law, but limits the shooter to being only the property owner.

On a personal note, I have experienced problems with a pack of wild dogs running on my property of only three acres. I had two young daughters who could not enjoy playing on their own property due to the threat posed by the pack of wild dogs. I was forced to carry a gun whenever I walked on my own property. When I called the county animal control, I was told I needed to capture the dogs first. I was told once I had captured the wild dogs, I should call animal control to come pick up the dogs. I urge you to also allow property owners with less than 25 acres the right to defend their property and their children from dangerous animals.

GrassRoots would like to see H. 4631 amended so as to continue to maintain the state firearms preemption law just as S. 1039 does. But, the language allowing a property owner to designate another to shoot the dangerous animals on his property as found in H. 4631 is preferred over the language in S. 1039 which limits the shooter to only the property owner.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Butler, J.D.  
Vice President  
GrassRoots GunRights SC