

# GrassRoots GunRights

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

March 5, 2008

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

Re: H. 4631

Dear Rep. Talley:

GrassRoots opposes H. 4631 as currently drafted primarily because it repeals the state firearms preemption law. This would allow every local government in South Carolina to pass whatever gun control laws they so desired. The resulting maze of laws would legislatively entrap otherwise law abiding people. A gun owner could drive from one place in South Carolina to another and never know whether he was breaking the law unless he first researched the local laws of every county and municipality that he drove through immediately prior to making the drive since the laws could change at any time without notice. This is a tremendous threat to gun owners. This is unacceptable to GrassRoots members.

GrassRoots expressed our concerns about this problem to Rep. Duncan, the bill's primary sponsor, and GrassRoots was assured the problem would be fixed.

A similar bill - S. 1039 - was 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. The best aspects of both bills should be included in one bill, along with a couple of other improvements.

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 captured the wild dogs, I should call animal control to come pick up the dogs. Such advice is not only worthless, it is dangerous. I urge you to also allow property owners with less than 25 acres - such as myself - the right to defend their property and their children from dangerous animals, too.

GrassRoots proposes the following amendment to H. 4631:

**“Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking all after the enacting words and inserting:**

**SECTION 1. Section 23-31-510 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:**

**Section 23-31-510. No governing body of any county, municipality, or other political subdivision in this the State may enact or promulgate any regulation or ordinance which that regulates or attempts to regulate:**

**(1) the transfer, ownership, possession, carrying, or transportation of firearms, ammunition, components of firearms, or any combination of these things; or**

**(2) a landowner or the person in legal control of the land, or a designee of one of them, discharging a firearm on his property to protect his family, employees, guests, or the general public from animals that the landowner reasonably believes pose a direct threat or danger to people on the property or the general public. For the purposes of this item, the landowner's property must be a parcel of land comprised of at least three contiguous acres.**

**SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.”**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R D Butler". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

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