



Jeff Landry
Attorney General

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
P.O. BOX 94005
BATON ROUGE
70804-9005

April 26, 2018

The Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor, State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-7015

Dear Governor Edwards,

I write to express my disappointment with the actions of your designee to the State Bond Commission this morning. At that meeting, a resolution was discussed that would address serious concerns raised by U.S. Senator John Kennedy regarding policies of Citigroup and Bank of America that restrict our fellow citizens from exercising their fundamental right to bear arms.

As you are aware, those concerns were raised in an April 16, 2018 letter to Treasurer John Schroder and would have been swiftly and completely dealt with by passage of a resolution proposed by Treasurer Schroder. To the dismay of law-abiding gun owners and retailers, your designee Matthew Block worked decidedly against this resolution.

The proposed resolution represented a rare example of efficient government action, both in the resolution itself and in the timeliness in which it was considered. However, Mr. Block opted to propose that the Bond Commission have discretion over whether our State will sanction actors whose stated policies are to deny law-abiding gun retailers access to crucial financial services.

This is a staggering about-face from our State's longstanding history of strong Second Amendment protection. You are undoubtedly aware of your vote in the Legislature in favor of presenting to the electorate a constitutional amendment that gave our citizens the most expansive protections of their rights to keep and bear arms. I have enclosed a copy of that instrument and the voting record for your convenience.

Mr. Block's action to thwart strong, common-sense protection of our citizens' gun rights is very troubling. Their fundamental rights deserve and require higher protection than the discretion of the Bond Commission. The resolution proposed by Treasurer Schroder would have made it clearly known that the policy of our State is to benefit those that respect the fundamental rights of our citizens and to reject those that work against these rights. My hope is that you will personally attend the next meeting to discuss this important issue. Our fundamental rights deserve our government's proactive protection, not its passive complicity in their demise.

For Louisiana,

Jeff Landry
Attorney General

Enclosures: Act 874 of 2012; House Final Vote on SB 303

SENATE BILL NO. 303

BY SENATORS RISER, ADLEY, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CROWE, ERDEY, GUILLORY, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, MORRISH, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES ADAMS, ANDERS, ARMES, BERTHELOT, STUART BISHOP, BROADWATER, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, CARMODY, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GREENE, HARRIS, HAVARD, HENRY, HENSGENS, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HUNTER, LAMBERT, LEOPOLD, LIGI, LORUSSO, MACK, MILLER, MONTOUCET, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, ORTEGO, PONTI, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SIMON, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THOMPSON AND WHITNEY

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article I, Section 11 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the right to keep and bear arms; to provide that the right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental right; to provide for a strict scrutiny standard of review by the court; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article I, Section 11 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§11. Right to Keep and Bear Arms

Section 11. The right of each citizen to keep and bear arms **is fundamental and shall not be abridged infringed.** ~~but this provision shall not prevent the passage of laws to prohibit the carrying of weapons concealed on the person.~~ **Any restriction on this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny.**

Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 6, 2012.

Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at said election there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted

1 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
2 follows:

3 Do you support an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana
4 to provide that the right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental right and any
5 restriction of that right requires the highest standard of review by a court?
6 (Amends Article I, Section 11)

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2012 Regular Session

Sequence: 1162

SBS FINAL PASSAGE
SB 303 BY RISER
FINAL PASSAGE

Date: 5/24/2012
Time: 12:09:16 PM

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. Speaker
Adams
Anders
Armes
Arnold
Barras
Berthelot
Billiot
Bishop, S.
Broadwater
Brown
Burford
Burns, H.
Burns, T.
Carmody
Carter
Champagne
Chaney
Cromer
Danahay
Dixon
Edwards
Fannin
Foil
Garofalo
Geymann
Total -- 77

Gisclair
Greene
Guinn
Harris
Harrison
Havard
Hazel
Henry
Hensgens
Hill
Hodges
Hoffmann
Hollis
Howard
Huval
Johnson
Jones
Lambert
Landry, N.
LeBas
Leger
Leopold
Ligi
Lopinto
Lorusso
Mack

Miller
Morris, Jay
Morris, Jim
Ortego
Pearson
Ponti
Pope
Pugh
Pylant
Reynolds
Richard
Richardson
Ritchie
Robideaux
Schexnayder
Schroder
Seabaugh
Shadoin
Simon
St. Germain
Talbot
Thibaut
Thompson
Whitney
Willmott

NAYS

Badon
Barrow
Bishop, W.
Brossett
Burrell
Franklin
Gaines
Hqnore
Total -- 22

Hunter
Jackson, G.
Jackson, K.
James
Jefferson
Landry, T.
Moreno
Norton

Pierre
Price
Smith
Thierry
Williams, A.
Williams, P.

ABSENT

Abramson
Connick
Total -- 6

Cox
Dove

Guillory
Montoucet