

Jonathan R. Evans, Esq
President



Scott Krauss
Vice President

P.O. Box 7182, Milford, NH 03055-7182
<http://www.nhfc-ontarget.org>

January 18, 2010

Dear Fish & Game Committee Member,

The New Hampshire Firearms Coalition is opposed to HB 1201 as written.

RSA 207:7 is faulty as it currently exists, and HB 1201 only serves to extend that fault further.

Currently, RSA 207:7 prohibits the mere possession of a loaded rifle or shotgun in a vehicle, OHRV, boat, etc. The intended goal of this statute is to prevent people from hunting from a vehicle. But this is wholly accomplished through RSA 207:7, I. II-IV are an unnecessary infringement on the rights of firearms owners.

There are numerous legitimate reasons why an individual might appropriately have a loaded rifle or shotgun in a vehicle, from farmers who keep a rifle on their tractor to deal with pests (porcupines, weasels, woodchucks, etc.), to the target shooter who is sighting in a rifle prone in the back of his pickup, to the camper who keeps a loaded shotgun for self defense when camping in their motor-home.

RSA 207:7,I prohibits taking or attempting to take wild game from a vehicle. This is the right way to prohibit hunting from a vehicle. Attempting to simply make the fish and game department's job easier when prosecuting, by removing the requirement that they actually prove someone was trying to hunt from their vehicle, is an assault on firearms owners. To compound that problem by adding muzzleloaders to the current law is unacceptable, when the legislature should be fixing this problem by removing the ban on mere possession in a vehicle.

I have included an amendment which the New Hampshire Firearms Coalition supports, removing the offending sections of RSA

207:7. Report this bill out ought to pass with the attached amendment, but do not aggravate the current infringement of firearm owner's rights found in RSA 207:7.

As always, we will be informing our members about the actions you take on this and other legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jonathan R. Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan R. Evans, Esq.
President, NHFC

Amendment to HB 1201

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Repeal, RSA 207:7 Hunting From Motor Vehicle, OHRV, Snowmobile, Boat, or Aircraft, Paragraphs II-IV are repealed.

2 Effective Date: This act shall take effect upon passage.