



Virginia Citizens Defense League, Inc.

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February 15, 2008

Mr. Chris Cox
NRA-ILA
11250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Chris,

As I write to you today, both NRA-ILA and VCDL are championing solid, common sense reforms to gun laws in the Virginia General Assembly. Contrary to some predictions, Virginia gun owners have fared well in the General Assembly so far. This is without a doubt thanks to the thousands of Virginia gun owners who are members of the NRA, contributing to NRA-ILA, VSSA and VCDL. Thanks to our common efforts we have pushed back efforts to restrict law abiding citizens and pushed forward positive, common sense measures to keep Virginians safe.

Another common goal of our organizations is repealing the National Park Service's (NPS) ban on self-defense with loaded, functional firearms. This regulation just defies common sense and is a particular thorn in the side of gun owners in Virginia due to the abundance of National Parks owned and managed properties. All of VCDL is appreciative of NRA-ILA's hard work in securing the signatures of 47 United States Senators on the letter to Secretary Kempthorne urging modification of this odious restriction to conform NPS regulations to other Federal properties which honor the state law. This letter could not have come at a better time.

As you know, VCDL has been working to get this ban on self defense for National Park visitors amended via the regulatory process. In 2005 VCDL submitted a petition for rule making to conform CFR36, regulation 2.4 to the State law of the park residence. In 2007, after much waiting and delay NPS denied the VCDL petition. Over the months that followed VCDL members engaged in a long and difficult effort to obtain information from the National Park Service about this petition denial. It was our belief that there was no 'review' and the Freedom of Information Act response showed exactly that. On February 6th, 2008 VCDL announced that we had received confirmation that DOI has received

our new petition to amend CFR36, regulation 2.4 to assimilate the state law of the park residence with regard to firearms. The change would allow law abiding citizens and off duty state & local law enforcement officers to possess usable firearms within the park boundaries provided that the firearm is possessed in compliance with state & federal law, but would NOT permit hunting or recreational shooting without NPS approval. The new VCDL directly addresses the reasons the National Park Service's denial of VCDL's first petition.

VCDL's new petition is located at http://www.vcdl.org/pdf/VCDLPRM_010408.pdf

We need the NRA-ILA's support to get the National Park Service to adopt rules that respect both the State's authority and the rights of the law abiding citizens. As our combined efforts in the Virginia General Assembly have shown, by working together towards our common interests with a unified position, we can defeat gun control and succeed in enacting gun laws that respect the citizens' rights to keep and bear arms and to defend themselves.

We ask that NRA-ILA back the VCDL petition in an official capacity by agreeing to be a co-petitioner and lending the NRA-ILA's considerable influence to this effort in which both VCDL and NRA-ILA share a common goal. Together, we can end the National Park Service's ban on usable self-defense firearms and restore the right of self-protection for law abiding citizens visiting National Parks. We look forward to standing side by side with NRA-ILA and await your reply.

Sincerely,



Philip Van Cleave

President

Virginia Citizens Defense League