

-----Original Message-----

From: Lopez, Chris [mailto:Chris.Lopez@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2005 10:37 AM
To: ''Dave *****''
Subject: RE: Merry Christmas

David,

I just talked to Paul Hoffman. He should be contacting you soon.

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---Acta Non Verba---
"Deeds Not Words"

Greetings Chris,

I hope you and the rest of the office had a joyful and Merry Christmas. I look forward to 2006.

You were 100% correct, Mr. Hoffman did call me, about 10:48. I discussed the issue with him for 3, perhaps 4 minutes. I believe that in a nutshell, we are at an impasse.

Mr. Hoffman indicated that he would like to propose the rule change after the November '06 elections. I can speak only for myself and the few people whom I represent locally that this is not acceptable. I am reasonably confident that VCDL, and the other petitioners will also deem this to be not enough. Mr. Hoffman indicated that there is a great deal of effort being expended on the NPS regulations, policies and procedures. When I indicated that I believed that post November '06 was beyond what I consider reasonable, Mr. Hoffman (politely) reminded me that there is no time constraint with which they must respond to the petition, if ever. I do believe him when he says that there is support for the petition at DOI, and I do believe him when he indicates his support (he showed us his carry permit in our January '05 meeting).

I did concede to Mr. Hoffman that I did understand, and sympathize with his plight. I do remember that you cannot predict with a crystal ball what issue will suddenly balloon into one which garners national media attention. I cited the Snowmobiles in Parks issue. However, I and my fellow petitioners do not run for (re)election, and we do not concern ourselves with what is politically expedient, our narrow focus is for our petition to receive it's fair chance, or in Senater vernacular, its "up or down vote".

One issue which has not been really paid attention to about Virginia's recent election was what effect the "pro-gun vote" had. While much media attention was given to the NRA-ILA endorsement of Jerry Kilgore, and Creigh Deeds, little attention was paid to VCDL's endorsements of Bob McDonnell and the lack of endorsement for Governor. VCDL with very few exceptions limits the focus of the group's efforts to state level Virginia issues. VCDL would not endorse a candidate for Governor because Tim Kaine's answers were merely "OK", and neither

Senator Potts or AG Kilgore would answer VCDL's questions. Honestly, a lot of pro-gun citizens are becoming disenchanted with the Republican party as a whole. Just opposing gun control is not enough. We've seen how well gun control works in DC, and it's well past time for these practically worthless restrictions on the law abiding to go.

Just as a data point Chris, I would like to say that twice now Congressman Tom Davis's office has intervned on my behalf for this petition, and twice now the petitioners have gotten a response. I hope that as Congressman Davis seeks reelection this help will not be forgotten on the petitioners (I'm going to do my part to see that it is NOT forgotten, you guys have really helped out here, and on behalf of the petitioners, I thank you).

I agreed to speak with the other petitioners on behalf of Mr. Hoffman, and present his issues and concerns. I did caution him that I was reasonably sure that post November '06 wasn't going to be palatable, but perhaps we could reach a mutually beneficial compromise. I also agreed to call him back post New Year to discuss. I have a call scheduled with Keith Cassidy of Senator Allen's office 1/4/06 @1000 so I should be able to have a feel for what the over 4 dozen petitioning organizations think by then. I will recontact you then.

Once again, thanks to you personally, to Congressman Davis, and the rest of the office on my behalf. Please extend my wishes for a safe and Happy New Year to the office.

"---Acta Non Verba---" <- That is indeed true of you Chris.

Best regards,

David *****

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