



Chairman's Letter March 2023

Greetings,

I've been in the Roundhouse before, but had never sat in on an actual hearing. Last month, I went to the hearing for HB100, the 14-day Waiting Period for Firearms Sales. A crowd gathered in the hallway as we waited for the hearing to begin. I would say 2nd amendment supporters outnumbered gun grabbers by at least three or four to one. When the doors opened, we all took our seats inside. Advocates for both sides made their statements for the record.

Andrea Romero, House District 46, was a sponsor of the bill. Her district includes a large part of Santa Fe County. Friends, we are not sending our best. Her argument for restricting our 2nd amendment rights was based on a vague hunch and well-intentioned feelings without facts or evidence. Our valiant Republican Representatives Ryan Lane, Bill Rehm, Greg Nibert and Andrea Reeb poked holes in the flimsy theory until it resembled swiss cheese.

Then Representative Matthew McQueen, House District 50, also Santa Fe County, spilled the beans on the real agenda when he said the bill was a "step in the right direction." Direction toward what? I think we all know the answer. The left's ultimate goal is disarming America. Representative McQueen was actually being the most honest, because all these gun control bills are designed to chip away, little by little, at our right to bear arms, until we are completely defenseless.

Attending this hearing was illuminating and frustrating at the same time. In spite of having no real argument in favor, in spite of overwhelming numbers showing up and speaking out against, the democrats advanced the bill on a party line vote, thumbing their collective nose at the public.

Frankly it was embarrassing to see our Representatives from Santa Fe so lightly dismissing our fundamental liberties enshrined in the Bill of Rights. They say all politics is local, and I have never been more convinced of that than I am after witnessing a hearing at the Roundhouse. My friends, we have the power to make a change. It can happen and it must happen.

Yours Truly,

Robert Witsenhausen, Chair