

Dear Senator Thatcher:

Thank you for supporting our Second Amendment rights. I will be brief with my comments because I know you are busy.

SB 941 is a dangerous and irresponsible bill. It greatly saddens me to see the mob-like mentality of my fellow Oregonians in their efforts to rush this bill into law. I just happen to know a little bit about mob mentality and what it is like to be in a country where people have few resources to defend themselves.

Through March 31, my husband and I worked in the scuba diving tourism industry on a live-aboard dive boat in Truk Lagoon, which is located in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. As you may know, Chuuk was hit very hard by Typhoon Maysak on Sunday, March 29.

We nearly lost our lives trying to save the dive boat before the typhoon pushed us into the rocks. Within 30 minutes of hitting the rocks, the looters were swimming out to us. The storm was still raging and these criminals were willing to risk their lives for the opportunity to steal whatever we had on that boat.

Firearms are illegal here. Defending yourself in hand to hand combat against one person is not an easy task for many people. Defending yourself against a mob carrying machetes and clubs is even harder. That's what it feels like when you have no Second amendment rights.

By the grace of God, we escaped with our lives for the second time that day. All the boats that went on the rocks were looted and vandalized over the next couple days. It was not enough for them to steal the items from the boats. They smashed everything to bits, sprayed graffiti, and defecated everywhere. If they are willing to do that to inanimate objects, what would they be willing to do to people?

We are now anxiously awaiting our flight out of this country, which leaves here at about 3:30 pm today.

It is Thursday here, April 2. The governor of this state and his officials have predicted a massive shortage of drinking water and food due to destruction of local fruit and vegetables. Their media has indicated many people will be out of food and water by the weekend. If that happens, I believe the people here will turn on each other and the looting will begin anew, but this time at an incomprehensible level of viciousness. My husband and I are praying we can escape with our lives yet a third time.

So Senator Thatcher, that's what it feels like to live in a country without Second Amendment rights. When everything is going okay, well, maybe it isn't so bad. But when things go wrong and you have no way to defend yourself against the monsters around you, well that is an entirely different situation.

Respectfully,

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