May 27, 2025

The Honorable Governor Lombardo
State Capitol Building
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Assembly Bill 245: Revising provisions relating to firearms

Dear Governor Lombardo,

The Nevada conservation and outdoor recreation organizations signed below would like to thank you for your continued support of our hunting heritage and share our significant concerns with Assembly Bill 245. This bill would limit the ability of youth to possess certain firearms for hunting, shooting sports and other various outdoor recreation.

The language of AB 245 would make it a crime for anyone under 18 from possessing a semi-automatic shotgun, preventing families from creating memories like the picture below. In it, 10-year-old Sabrina Little is on her first duck hunt with her dad at a National Wildlife Refuge. She is using a 3-shot semi-automatic shotgun, which is the most common type of legal hunting shotgun used for waterfowling and the easiest firearm to use for a beginner. In order to obtain her first hunting license, Sabrina had to take an intensive gun safety training course offered by the state wildlife agency.



Family traditions threatened by AB245

Our organizations believe deeply in gun safety and represent the interests of tens of thousands of youth and families that enjoy the safe and legal traditions of hunting with firearms in Nevada. Hunters and anglers have long been the primary funders of state level conservation for more than 85 years. Through the American System of Conservation Funding, hunting license fees go directly back into conservation by the State to protect lands, waters, and habitats important to Nevada's wildlife. Also, the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 dedicated an excise tax on firearms and ammunition that contributes millions of dollars each year directly into state conservation efforts. Nevada hunters are proud to contribute to conservation funding when purchasing our firearms and licenses.

AB 245 will create significant barriers to introducing youth and families to hunting in Nevada. It will result in fewer new hunters enjoying this outdoor family activity and will diminish the positive impacts that hunting has on Nevada's natural habitats and the fish and wildlife they support.

Age restrictions for semi-automatic shotguns will also prevent high school youth from pursuing trap shooting sports – the fastest growing high school sport in America. This sport depends on semi-auto shotguns for affordability and competitive shooting at multiple targets.

We share the interests of promoting safe firearm ownership and we hope you will work closely with our community to find positive opportunities to do so without diminishing the recruitment and retention of hunters in Nevada that are vital to the future of conservation funding in our state.

Please feel free to contact us for more information and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife
Delta Waterfowl
Ducks Unlimited
National Wild Turkey Federation - Nevada State Chapter
Nevada Wildlife Federation
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Safari Club International
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership