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To: Members of the Wisconsin Legislature

From: Ken Taylor, Executive Director

Date: March 16, 2010

Re: Co-Sponsor LRB-2912/5 and LRB-4543/1, an Act to Close the Gun Show Loophole and require background checks on all firearm transfers

With the end of session just a few short weeks away, your offices are being inundated with paper, however we feel that an LRB draft being circulated this week by Senator Cogg and Representative Staskunas, that would close the gun show loophole, is worthy of your attention and support. **To that end, we write to urge you to sign on as a co-sponsor of this important safety legislation.**

As you are aware, our current law requires federally licensed gun dealers to follow state law and conduct a background check and ask for identification from all potential buyers prior to the final sale of the firearm. While, guns sold at gun shows by unlicensed dealers, through newspaper ads or in yard sales do not require a buyer to have a background check or produce identification. This double standard is particularly absurd as close to one half of guns sold in Wisconsin are sold by unlicensed dealers and through private sales. Not surprisingly, the majority of guns used in crime come from this unregulated market.

Public opinion polls taken by organizations, across the political spectrum, clearly demonstrate extensive support from gun owners for sensible regulation of gun sales. We urge you to show your support for closing this egregious hole in state law by signing on as a co-sponsor of LRB-2912/5 and LRB-4543/1 and advocating passage before the end of the legislative session.