

United Mine Workers of America

CECIL E. ROBERTS
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

TELEPHONE
(703) 208-7220
FAX (703) 208-7132



September 23, 2003

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the United Mine Workers of America, in particular members of UMW A Local Union 717 at Remington Arms in Ilion, NY, I ask that you co-sponsor and strongly support the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, S. 659. Similar legislation, H.R. 1036, passed the House of Representatives in April.

The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act will help prevent lawsuits by various parties that are intended to shut down the legitimate and legal firearms industry in the United States because of improper use of firearms by individuals.

An issue that is often overlooked in this emotionally charged debate is the economic impact the closing of our firearms industry will have on workers and their communities. In most cases these plants are located in rural areas and are the largest employers in the community. Nearly 1000 UMW members work for Remington Arms in Ilion, one of the largest employers in Herkimer County in upstate New York.

The United States is losing our industrial base and since January 2001 we have lost 2.5 million industrial jobs in the U.S. In the state of New York, where our members work for Remington Arms, 179,400 industrial jobs have been lost since January 2001. We need to take steps to protect and encourage growth of our industrial base, including our firearms manufacturers. You can do that by co-sponsoring and supporting S.659.

I strongly encourage you to co-sponsor the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act in its consideration by the full Senate.

Sincerely,

Cecil E. Roberts

Organized labor wants The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms to protect American jobs and American principles.

Excerpts of letters written to the U.S. Senate:

“Our members build the finest small arms in the world, including the M4 Carbine, the M16 Rifle and the M203 Grenade Launcher, with many being shipped to the U.S. Military and law enforcement personnel to help defend our country and principles of democracy.

I am writing this letter in support of the passage of S. 659, Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. If passed, this law would prevent the senseless lawsuits that have been brought across the country against Colt and other members of the firearms industry.

These lawsuits are unfair.”

Russ See,
President
United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America
Local 376

“Today, our industry is facing the very real possibility of extinction, Trial lawyers and opportunistic politicians have filed scores of city and municipal lawsuits in an attempt to win through a court judgment changes in firearms laws that Congress and state legislatures have soundly rejected. These lawsuits threaten to bankrupt a legal industry that is heavily regulated by thousands of local, state and federal laws, and undermine the role of elected officials.”

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District 9
Dennis E. Pearson
Business Representative

Ellen M. Arbogast
Business Representative

“Although the firearms industry has been successful in winning eight lawsuits of the more than 30 filed to date, we are just one defeat away from bankruptcy. A multi-million dollar judgment against firearms companies by sympathetic jurors can result in the bankruptcy of a legal, heavily regulated industry that could destroy America’s hunting heritage. National security implications cannot be ignored.”

United Steelworkers of America Local 170