



NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

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LAWRENCE G. KEANE
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &
GENERAL COUNSEL

July 19, 2010

The Honorable John B. Larson
106 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 0515

Re: H.R. 5131 - Coltsville National Historical Park Act

Dear Congressman Larson:

I write on behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the firearm industry's trade association, to thank you for your leadership in sponsoring H.R. 5131, the Coltsville National Historical Park Act. The NSSF is headquartered in Newtown, Connecticut, and our over 6,500 members include manufacturers, distributors and retailers from across the nation, including Colt's Manufacturing Company here in our shared home state.

Colt's membership in NSSF has helped us achieve our goal of promoting, protecting and preserving hunting and the shooting sports. They have done so by their long history of commitment to quality firearm manufacturing that puts reliable firearms in the hands of our military and sportsmen and supports the businesses of firearm retailers both large and small nationwide. The positive impact that Colt's has on our country is apparent from the revolutionary Samuel Colt peacemaker to the modern M4 and M16 rifles that are used by tens of thousands of our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. During every war since World War I, Colt's Manufacturing Company has acted as the nation's leading small arms producer and made a vital contribution to the U.S. war effort. Colt's has been able to do this by drawing upon the technological innovations of the firearm industry in New England to achieve a high level of mechanization and production. Colt's has been a highly influential national source of innovation in precision manufacturing and firearm design well into the 21st century.

Colt's has also had an important impact on our state's history and economy. As you know, Connecticut is the birthplace of America's firearm industry. Colt's, as a longstanding part of the firearm industry, is an important part of Connecticut's economy, as our industry supports 5,400 jobs, paying \$380 million in wages, with an overall economic impact to the state's economy of almost \$1.3 billion. Our industry also contributes nearly \$200 million in state and federal taxes, and Connecticut manufacturers contribute nearly \$6.1 million annually to support wildlife conservation.

Your bill honors the historical significance of Colt's Firearms and Manufacturing Company in Hartford, Connecticut by giving the Secretary of the Interior authority to establish the Coltsville Historic District as a National Historical Park. As you know, Samuel Colt planned Coltsville as a fully-integrated industrial community that includes manufacturing facilities, Victorian mansions,

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an open green area, botanical gardens and even a deer park. By establishing it as a National Historical Park and allowing original Colt's guns throughout history to be on display, a tribute will be paid to the history created by Colt's as a manufacturing company and to our firearm industry as a whole.

For the above reasons, the NSSF supports H.R. 5131 and thanks you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence G. Keane". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "Sincerely yours,".

Lawrence G. Keane