



STATE OF IDAHO

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

LAWRENCE G. WASDEN

February 2, 2016

The Honorable Mark Herring  
Virginia Attorney General  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear General Herring:

I write on behalf of the approximately 85,535 concealed weapons permit holders, and the remainder of the citizens of Idaho, to respectfully ask you to reconsider Virginia's elimination of reciprocity with Idaho. A careful reading of Idaho Code § 18-3302 indicates that it contains many of the same qualifiers as Virginia. Although the respective language is not identical, the outcomes from the concealed weapons process are very likely the same in both Virginia and Idaho. I understand that Virginia has additional qualifiers, but they do not appear to be connected with any statistical evidence linking them with gun violence. For example, a person receiving three DUIs most likely indicates a drinking problem—not a gun problem. Virginia recognized this fact in maintaining reciprocity with Utah; however, Idaho has almost identical statutes to Utah, and Idaho's reciprocity was terminated. I respectfully ask that any inconsistencies between our respective states be resolved in favor of reciprocity and comity.

This unilateral decision is troubling to me because comity and reciprocity are hallmarks of our Union of States. It has been Idaho's experience that concealed weapons permit holders are among the most law abiding segment of gun owners in the nation. My understanding of Virginia's statistics is that Idaho's experience is mirrored in Virginia.<sup>1</sup> In short, the statistical evidence does not bear out a need to terminate reciprocity with Idaho.

I understand the pressures of the Office of the Attorney General and the need to take meaningful action; however, this decision singles out law abiding citizens and arbitrarily strips them of their constitutional rights. I respectfully ask that you

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Virginia State Police, less than 1% of Virginia's 385,125 concealed permit holders had their permits revoked in 2014.

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reconsider your decision not to provide reciprocity to Idaho's citizens and to re-establish the friendship and comity between our states.

I am happy to discuss this request with you individually as well if you would prefer a personal conversation, as opposed to one through the mail. I can be reached through my Assistant Janet Carter at 208-334-4146.

Sincerely,



LAWRENCE G. WASDEN  
Idaho Attorney General

LGW:jc