



**BETTER TOGETHER**  
NEW MEXICO

P.O. Box 95735  
Albuquerque, NM 87199  
(505) 235-6323

RE: Oppose **SB 279 Gas-Operated SemiAuto Firearms Exclusion Act**

Mr./Madame Chair and Committee Members:

Better Together New Mexico (BTNM) brings together hundreds of advocacy groups and thousands of New Mexicans statewide. Our mission is to unite New Mexicans through grassroots initiatives and work to positively shape the decisions that affect our lives, families, and communities.

BTNM strongly opposes SB 279, the Gas-Operated Semiautomatic Firearms Exclusion Act. This bill seeks to ban the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, receipt, or possession of gas-operated semiautomatic firearms in New Mexico. It also prohibits magazines with more than 10 rounds and any accessories that increase a firearm's rate of fire or mimic the function of a machine gun. While certain exemptions exist for law enforcement, military personnel, and licensed manufacturers, violations of the act would be classified as fourth-degree felonies.

SB 279 is a direct infringement on Second Amendment rights and a clear example of government overreach. It bans commonly owned firearms, restricts law-abiding citizens from possessing or transferring them, and imposes vague regulations that open the door to further restrictions. Its broad definitions and mandatory certification process could criminalize responsible gun owners while unfairly exempting law enforcement, creating an unequal application of the law. Furthermore, the bill may violate Supreme Court precedents that protect the right to own firearms commonly used for self-defense, making it susceptible to legal challenges.

For the reasons stated, I urge you to vote NO on SB 279 Gas-Operated SemiAuto Firearms Exclusion Act.

Thank you for considering my comments,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carla J. Sonntag".

**Carla J. Sonntag**  
President and CEO