

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Robert E. Hearnnes, Director

Tuesday March 3, 2015

The Honorable B. Todd Jones  
Director  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
99 New York Avenue, N.E.  
Washington DC 20226

Dear Director Jones,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns about the proposed banning of the AR-15 ammunition commonly referred to as M855. It is my understanding this ammunition is being banned because it can be fired from a handgun, and penetrate body armor commonly worn by police officers.

This proposal seems to be a solution in search of a problem. There certainly is no law enforcement need for such an action. As you are well aware, all centerfire rifle ammunition will penetrate soft armor, not just the M855. The notion that this will save police officer's lives simply not true, and sets a dangerous precedent for other ammunition on the civilian market.

On behalf of the Charleston Department of Public Safety, and the police officers employed here, I would like to voice our opposition to any plans to ban M885 ammunition.

Respectfully,



Robert Hearnnes,  
Director of Public Safety