

Ladies and gentlemen, we come here tonight to request that the board pass this resolution declaring our town to be an Article 16 and 2nd Amendment, Constitutional Sanctuary Township.

We the people of \_\_\_\_\_, have taken notice of the recent and growing hostility among our lawmakers towards our inalienable right of self defense. This is evidenced in their attempts to pass legislation eroding our right to keep and bear arms in defense of ourselves and the state as protected by Article Sixteen of the Vermont Constitution and the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

Despite our objections and overwhelming evidence to the contrary, law abiding gun owners continue to be blamed for the horrendous acts of violence which continue to plague our country and, to a much lesser extent, our state. We live in peace as all good people do, yet continue to draw the attention of lawmakers attempting to fix the problem by targeting good people.

While there is no doubt that our society does in fact, seem to have a problem with violence, criminalizing peaceful people for owning a tool to protect their families will solve no problems and do nothing except create more criminals.

The inalienable right to self-defense does not come from man or man's laws. These rights pre-exist all governments and are part of our nature as persons. The founders of this country and the state of Vermont understood the importance of arms in the hands of the common man as not only a hedge against invasion, but as a deterrent to tyranny and oppression from our own government. Civilian owned firearms save countless more lives every year than they take; often the mere presence of a gun serves as a deterrent to violence in the hands of our weakest and most vulnerable.

It is for these reasons that we ask the board to adopt this resolution as a symbol of our civil disobedience to those who would attempt to render us defenseless. Please pass this resolution in defense of our rights today.

Thank you.