

Dear Keith/Tack,

Thank you for meeting with us on Thursday, November 10, 2005 about the VCDL Petition for Rule Making to amend CFR 36, regulation 2.4.

As we discussed in the meeting, the current rule does not allow for any “balance” of public safety and regulatory need. The current VCDL Petition would permit ONLY defensive possession or carrying of loaded firearms, and ONLY in states where that was legal. This issue is rightly determined by the States, not an Executive Branch Department.

The Forest Service already uses this proven model in National Forests. Despite the different missions of the two entities, the VCDL Petition ONLY seeks to permit the lawful, defensive possession and carrying of firearms as in National Forests, nothing else.

Historically, this model of ‘shall issue’ or ‘right to carry’ as the NRA-ILA refers to it has proven that crime does not increase where citizens are allowed to protect themselves.

VCDL, and the 4 dozen co-petitioners have been repeatedly rebuffed by the Department of the Interior since February of last year when the VCDL Petition was submitted. This “perpetual review at the Department level” and stonewalling serves nobody well. Additionally, we have had repeated Congressional requests for an update on progress met with either no response from the Department of the Interior, or their standardized, misleading “Taylor-Goodrich letter”, which first surfaced in February of 2005.

VCDL and the cosigners of the Petition for Rule Making to amend CFR 36, regulation 2.4 would welcome any assistance that Senator Allen/Warner could provide to take the “next step” in getting the common sense changes contained in the Petition implemented A.S.A.P. Be that legislatively implementing these changes, or a friendly reminder from the Virginia Congressional Delegation that these changes are needed as a matter of public safety, we look forward to working with your office to that end.

Sincerely,