



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR

12 June 2009

The Honorable Kent Williams
Speaker of the House
19 Legislative Plaza
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: House Bill 1796

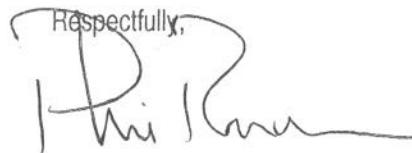
Dear Speaker Williams:

I intend to allow House Bill 1796 to become law without signature.

This bill is not about firearms. It represents a fringe constitutional theory that I believe will be quickly dispensed with by the federal courts.

The Tennessee General Assembly lacks any Constitutional authority to limit the power and authority of the United States government in this manner. Enactment of HB 1796 will almost certainly result in a swift legal challenge of the law by the federal government, which will ultimately result in the law being found unconstitutional. In fact, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has already indicated their intent to continue to fully enforce the relevant federal laws, regardless of the enactment of HB 1796. Unfortunately, in light of the clear constitutional deficiencies of this bill, its enactment will also no doubt result in unnecessary and potentially expensive confusion for firearm manufacturers, importers and dealers, almost all of whom seek to conduct their business in a law-abiding manner.

While I share the General Assembly's commitment to federalism, this legislation contravenes our Constitution. I am allowing it to become law so that it can quickly be dealt with in the federal courts.

Respectfully,


Phil Bredesen