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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 54
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY
Joe Thompson

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING CONGRESS TO END THE ABUSE OF TORT LAW AGAINST THE
FIREARMS INDUSTRY.

WHEREAS, citizens have a right, protected by the second
amendment to the United States constitution, to keep and bear
arms; and

WHEREAS, lawsuits have been commenced against
manufacturers, distributors, dealers and importers of firearms
that operate as designed and intended that seek money damages
and other relief for the harm caused by the misuse of firearms
by third parties, including criminals; and

WHEREAS, the manufacture, importation, possession, sale
and use of firearms and ammunition in the United States is
heavily regulated by federal, state and local laws, including
the Gun Control Act of 1968, the National Firearms Act and the

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1 Arms Export Control Act; and

2 WHEREAS, businesses in the United States that are engaged
3 in interstate and foreign commerce through the lawful design,
4 manufacture, marketing, distribution, importation or sale to
5 the public of firearms or ammunition are not, and should not
6 be, liable for the harm caused by those who criminally or
7 unlawfully misuse firearms or ammunition that function as
8 designed and intended; and

9 WHEREAS, thirty-three states have passed legislation
10 protecting firearms and ammunition manufacturers, and the
11 legislation pending in congress to prohibit civil liability
12 actions against the firearms industry has broad support, as
13 evidenced by the overwhelming bipartisan vote of two hundred
14 eighty-five to one hundred forty in the house of
15 representatives in favor of the legislation and the
16 cosponsorship of the legislation by more than half of the
17 United States senate;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that congress be requested to approve
20 legislation to end the abuse of tort laws against the firearms
21 industry; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
24 delegation.