



National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association

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Statement of
Rebecca Waterman
President of the NMLRA

Mr. President I am Rebecca Waterman, President of the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association. Our primary membership is in the United States, but I believe I speak for the many, many users of antique and muzzle loading arms in other jurisdictions.

My life began in a family with a long tradition of farmers, hunters, and competition shooting. We lived off the land and ate what we hunted.

As a child, my early years were spent with my parents, grandparents, and great grandparents shooting. I started shooting BB, a small pellet, guns at a very early age at our local gun club where we learned gun safety and the proper handling of a firearm, from which I then moved into competition shooting. As my passion developed for the outdoors and for participating in shooting sports, I began hunting wild game.

Four generation later my parents, children and grandchildren are still honoring this family tradition by hunting game and participating in recreational shooting activities together.

Today my children and grandchildren are avid hunters and love the sport of shooting that they started very early in life. At the age of six, all three of my grandchildren took their first deer. Proudly following in the tradition of their parents, grandparents, and great grandparents, they filled the freezer with meat for us to eat through the winter months.

This past winter I found myself sitting on a cold freezing morning in the woods with a muzzleloader and my son sitting beside me. Just 10 minutes prior a deer ran by us, stopped and stared and then ran off. I knew at that moment that even if I did not take a deer, my dream of quality time spent in the woods with my son at my side is a mother's lifetime moment

There was never a time that shooting and hunting were not a part of my life. I'm proud of my family upbringing and want to continue this tradition and share these values with future generations to come.

Mr. Chairman, delegates, please excuse my use of a such a personal example, but I wanted you to know what a vital and wonderful part of family life hunting and shooting sports can be. This meeting and the United Nations need to acknowledge that hunting and shooting are an integral part of many countries' cultures whether it be in the Mid-West United States, the outback of Australia or the Black Forest of Germany. With such an acknowledgement the POA will cease to be seen as a threat to the hundreds of millions of hunters and sport shooters throughout the world.

Thank you.