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August 26, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

As you are aware, there is significant confusion about whether competitive shooting sports are exempt from the firearm legislation signed into law on July 1, 2022. As Governor, I know you are also aware how important the longstanding tradition of shooting sports is in New York State, especially in our rural communities.

This is an issue that impacts thousands of student-athletes and sports enthusiasts. These constituents, and the organizations that run shooting sports programs—including skeet, trap and clay target shooting—need and deserve immediate clarity to ensure that these programs are allowed to continue to operate as they always have—safely and successfully.

Accordingly, I respectfully request a letter from the Governor's Counsel that can be provided to these organizations that cites the specific language in the law that exempts shooting sports from any requirements or liability under the law.

I am aware of the FAQ on the DEC's website, and statements from your spokesperson that these sports are exempt. However, I cannot find that precise language in statute. Without this clarity, many clubs and organizations have stated these programs are at risk of being canceled. You can help these student-athletes and thousands of others by providing us with clarity.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important issue. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela A. Helming".

Pamela A. Helming
New York State Senator, 54th District

Geneva: 425 Exchange Street, Geneva, NY 14456 • (315) 568-9816 • FAX: (315) 789-1946

Albany: Room 517 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247 • (518) 455-2366 • FAX: (518) 426-6953

www.helming.nysenate.gov • helming@nysenate.gov

