From: Paul Smith
To: Rep. Jay Adams; Rep. Gale Adcock; Rep. John Ager; Rep. Kelly M. Alexander; Rep. Vernetta Alston; Rep. Dean Arp; Rep. John Autry; Rep. Kristin Baker; Rep. Amber Baker; Rep. Cynthia Ball; Rep. Mary Belk; Rep. John Bell; Rep. Hugh Blackwell; Rep. Jamie Boles, Jr; Rep. John Bradford; Rep. William Brisson; Rep. Cecil Brockman; Rep. Mark Brody; Rep. Terry Brown; Rep. Dana Bumgardner; Rep. Deb Butler; Rep. Becky Carney; Rep. Jerry Carter; Rep. Mike Clampitt; Rep. Ashton Wheeler Clemmons; Rep. George Cleveland; Rep. Linda Cooper-Suggs; Rep. Carla Cunningham; Rep. Allison A. Dahle; Rep. Ted Davis; Rep. Jimmy Dixon; Rep. Jeffrey Elmore; Rep. Terence Everitt; Rep. John Faircloth; Rep. Brian Farkas; Rep. Susan Fisher; Rep. James D. Gailliard; Rep. Terry Garrison; Rep. Rosa Gill; Rep. Karl Gillespie; Rep. Edward C. Goodwin; Rep. Charles Graham; Rep. Dudley Greene; Rep. Kyle Hall; Rep. Destin Hall; Rep. Bobby Hanig; Rep. Jon Hardister; Rep. Wesley Harris; Rep. Pricey Harrison; Rep. Kelly Hastings; Rep. Zack Hawkins; Rep. Julia Howard; Rep. Chris Humphrey; Rep. Rachel Hunt; Rep. Howard Hunter III; Rep. Pat Hurley; Rep. Ricky Hurtado; Rep. Frank Iler; Rep. Verla Insko; Rep. Darren Jackson; Rep. Joe John; Rep. Jake H. Johnson; Rep. Brenden Jones; Rep. Abe Jones; Rep. Keith Kidwell; Rep. Donny Lambeth; Rep. Brandon Lofton; Rep. Carolyn G. Logan; Rep. Marvin Lucas; Rep. Nasif Majeed; Rep. Grier Martin; Rep. Pat McElraft; Rep. Jeffrey C. McNeely; Rep. Allen McNeill; Rep. Graig Meyer; Rep. Charles Miller; Rep. Grey Mills; Rep. Tim Moffitt; Rep. Tim Moore; Rep. Marcia Morey; Rep. Ben Moss; Rep. Erin Pare; Rep. Howard Penny; Rep. Ray Pickett; Rep. Garland Pierce; Rep. Larry Pittman; Rep. Mark Pless; Rep. Larry Potts; Rep. Amos Quick; Rep. Robert Reives; Rep. William Richardson; Rep. Dennis Riddell; Rep. David Rogers; Rep. Jason Saine; Rep. Wayne Sasser; Rep. John Sauls; Rep. Mitchell Setzer; Rep. Phil Shepard; Rep. Carson Smith; Kandie Smith; Rep. Raymond E. Smith, Jr.; Rep. Sarah Stevens; Rep. Larry Strickland; Rep. John Szoka; Rep. Evelyn Terry; Rep. John Torbett; Rep. Brian Turner; Rep. Steve Tyson; Rep. Julie von Haefen; Rep. Harry Warren; Rep. Sam Watford; Rep. Diane Wheatley; Rep. Donna White; Rep. Shelly Willingham; Rep. David Willis; Rep. Matthew Winslow; Rep. Michael Wray; Rep. Larry Yarborough; Rep. Lee Zachary; Rep. Jeff Zenger; Sen. Ted Alexander; Sen. Deanna Ballard; Sen. Lisa S. Barnes; Sen. Ernestine Bazemore; Sen. Phil Berger; Sen. Dan Blue; Sen. Danny Britt; Sen. Jim Burgin; Sen. Jay Chaudhuri; Sen. Ben Clark; Sen. Kevin Corbin; Sen. David Craven; Sen. Sarah Crawford; Sen. Warren Daniel; Sen. Don Davis; Sen. Kirk deViere; Sen. Chuck Edwards; Sen. Toby Fitch; Sen. Carl Ford; Sen. Valerie Foushee; Sen. Amy Galey; Sen. Michael Garrett; Sen. Kathy Harrington; Sen. Ralph Hise; Sen. Brent Jackson; Sen. Jeff Jackson; Sen. Steve Jarvis; Sen. Todd Johnson; Sen. Joyce Krawiec; Sen. Michael Lazzara; Sen. Michael Lee; Sen. Paul Lowe; Sen. Natasha Marcus; Sen. Julie Mayfield; Sen. Tom McInnis; Sen. Mujtaba Mohammed; Sen. Natalie Murdock; Sen. Paul Newton; Sen. Wiley Nickel; Sen. Jim Perry; Sen. Dean Proctor; Sen. Bill Rabon; Sen. Gladys Robinson; Sen. DeAndrea Salvador; Sen. Norman Sanderson; Sen. Vickie Sawyer; Sen. Sam Searcy; Sen. Bob Steinburg; Sen. Joyce Waddell; Sen. Mike Woodard
Subject: Property rights of landowners in NC
Date: Tuesday, January 05, 2021 06:19:23 PM
Attachments: pastedImagebase640.png
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Good morning everyone. Hope this finds you enjoying a new year!
My name is Paul Smith, and I am the owner of Frontline Defense Firearms Training Center and Range located in Warren County NC.

A few topics I'd like to discuss briefly as I can. Over the past 8 years I have written this email at least a few dozen times. Some of you I have spoken with over the years and I would like to thank you for listening to me vent. My apologies for when the conversations went south. I get passionate about things and I run with it.
Again, I will do my best to be brief and professional as I can be. Thank you in advance for your time in reading this.
I have been told over and over our hands are tied and or not my department, I decided to throw all the mud against the wall and see if any of it sticks. Someone on this email knows who is responsible for this or who can listen to the landowners of NC and not be bullied or influenced?

Since 2012 I have been a landowner in Warren County. The idea of even owning 100 acres was a far-fetched dream of mine since 1991. I was sitting in Iraq during the first Gulf War working on my business plan of one day owning a gun range. Finishing up my career due to injuries, I moved back to NC in 1994. Proudly serving as an US Army Airborne Ranger and Sniper. I also worked with the FBI Sniper teams, ATF, DEA, US Customs, and the Border Patrol. After bouncing around from job to job, I knew I would not be happy unless I was in business for myself.

I purchased my property in Warren county and opened my business in April 2013. Since then, I have had the opportunity to witness firsthand the disgust that many hunters and landowners experience from dog hunting here in NC. Throughout the weekdays and every single weekend, I spend a good amount of my time policing up dogs off my property. I figured owning 100 acres I could have a place to hunt while I was away from home working. I have documented 217 dogs over a 7-year period that I have captured, called the owners, and returned them.
I have written down 52 bullet points of issues I have experienced and others. I will spare you many of them and get to my main points. With so many landowners who will no longer make calls or go to public mtgs due to the repercussions that follow. Online harassment, smeared in the community and more.
The following information I know you have heard many times; this isn't new. I guess I'm a fresh voice of concern. Maybe some new points of interest? My phone number is listed below in my signature block if there is something you would like for me to expound more upon.

1.Dog hunting in NC has run its course as with other neighboring states. With the amount of residential and commercial growth, the areas that are utilized can no longer safely support this style of hunting. I can say that as I am witnessing smaller and smaller tracts are being used to run dogs across. I have staff members who have purchased land in Warren County for the sole purpose of escaping the Raleigh Skyline and enjoying the peace and quiet of the countryside. When hunting season comes in, we get about a week of bowhunting in and it is over. The dog hunting clubs start running their dogs "training" for the upcoming rifle season and getting ready for the youth hunting day a few weeks prior to that. Bowhunters get a week or two and it is over. Opening day of dove season 2015, we had dogs running through our land on Lick Skillet Rd, Warrenton. I was able to capture some dogs and called the owner. They met us at our property gate. I said why are you running dogs a whole month before season? They said because we can. I said bow season starts next weekend. They said so, we have been running dogs here for over 20 years. I said well there's a new owner here now and we don't' appreciate your dog's running through the land. The following week I was able to talk with the game wardens and then Executive Director Gordon Myers. I learned quickly that nothing was going to change. Our hands are tied I was told. We have no control over regulating dog hunting laws, but we are the wildlife division of NC. To me that made about as much sense as the Chapel Hill Police Department going to IBM and asking them to write the guidelines for the use of deadly force in their department. Dumb I know, but that is how I see it. Why is the decision made at

the county level? What do they know about hunting and wildlife management? Nothing. Except all the county commissioners of Warren county are either dog hunters themselves or have families that are. The Sherriff is as well along with many of his deputies. I feel like I am living in a Netflix series.

2. The next few years the online complaining on social media of how our rights as landowners is continually being violated every time we try to hunt, is met with backlash. The verbal threats and smearing of individuals are getting out of hand. Anytime someone voices concern, it's copied and pasted on the Army of Orange Facebook page. All I ever hear is it's' your fault for owning land in dog hunting county? WHAT? I own land but it is my fault? I know I have taken some hard hits on the ground as a paratrooper, but this still is not making sense to me. I own land, pay taxes, but your dog's cannot read signs, and it is my fault? It is our heritage? So were some other southern traditions that no longer exist. Maybe I am talking to the wrong group of individuals. What about the heritage of being a landowner? Where are my rights?

3. January 2018 there was a public mtg about roadside hunting and shooting in the right of way. Per Mr. Myers recommendations, I should go and attend the public mtg at the National Guard Armory in Warrenton. A few days prior I was called by the gentleman who was putting a group of landowners together to discuss what they wanted to talk about. My facility was pretty much a central location for those who lived near or on the lake and those traveling up from Wake county and other surrounding counties. Mindful these were all landowners who owned land in Warren county outside of their residential homes. They game planned on who was going to speak and what topics they were going to cover. A Few days later the mtg was held. What I thought was going to be a localized meeting of hunters and landowners was no such thing. There were license plates from Virginia and South Carolina along with NC of course. That was the biggest cluster #$^%& I have ever witnessed. I stopped counting orange hunting caps at 300. There was 17 people in attendance not wearing an orange hat. The Sheriff was hollering and literally yelling about how great the dog hunters were to the community in their help finding missing children. Really? Never saw that on WRAL. I think there is a K-9 unit for that? I'm an ex Federal Officer, I know how that works.
How many of those people do you think spoke? 4!! I had approached the NCDOT before about various properties I was wanting to purchase but the locations had roads behind it within a mile and for safety reasons they felt it was not a good idea. I agree. But it is okay to stand in the right always with shotguns and rifles standing in the road or on top of their dog boxes? I have video from last weekend while I was traveling down Parktown Rd and Lick Skillet Rd in Warren County of this happening. I was praying the whole time, please Lord do not let a deer run out in front of me. I own a gun range and I fear for my own life driving down the road? Yeah, does not make sense does it? But it is our heritage. Maybe back when there were dirt roads, and it was happening on 1,000+ acre tracts. Georgia has adopted that into law. That still is not enough. I know a 2,000-acre bowhunting only club and they are constantly overrun with dogs. They are losing members this year obviously. Hunters are tired of it.

4. The next day is when I learned firsthand just what the "Army of Orange" Facebook group was all about. There was a list of all the landowners in attendance at the mtg. It was stated "that if you ain't wearing orange you ain't one of us." I was reading the post about the topics of discussion and then I saw my name. Location of the secret mtg held days before the was held at Frontline Defense. They called for a boycott of my business and all the other business owners that were in attendance of the mtg. Wow, I did not even say a word. I was there sitting in the room listening. Why? BECAUSE WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND THINKS IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO DISCHARGE A FIREARM IN THE RIGHT OF AWAY ON THE HIGHWAY!!!! I cannot tell you how many times I am driving to my place of business only to be staring down the barrel of a firearm. All firearms should be transported from your vehicle to the firing line in a case or holster. This is gun safety number 1. I know the wildlife officials on this email cannot go to your qualification range carrying a firearm freely. More so discharging it in a manner that there is not a known backstop that your bullet can stop into.
I had to construct my berms in accordance with the NRA to satisfy the safety requirements for my insurance company and it is only plain common sense! I guarantee the gun ranges that are located at the various game lands across the state have these same safety features in place. But it is okay to shoot along the road? Again, too many parachute jumps. I cannot wrap my head around this. Annually I see news reports from rural areas where someone has been shot along the roadside. Houses peppered with buckshot. The list goes on.

5. Calling Mr. Meyers about my concerns on Monday morning led to nowhere. I said your advice on going to public mtgs did not work out too well. I saw pictures posted of people's families, address is publicized and google satellite images of their business and or homes. I had my profile picture posted with me and my wife. Comments of let us turn dogs loose on all 3 sides of him and see how he likes it now. Also calls for order to start calling the town and complain about the range. We will get his business shut down and run him out of town. I told Meyers why do you think people will not go and speak at public mtgs? Over time I have seen newspaper articles in that region with an occasional reference about dog hunting and within hours only to see the article on social media and the cyber bullying that follows. Up to last week I was still screen shotting pics of them posting photos of people in opposition to dog hunting. One that really bothers me was two weeks ago and a picture was posted of the man at his mailbox. This kind of reactions does not serve anyone well and can escalate quickly. Who will be to blame? My hands are tied is

not working out. Call the local LEO. In those areas there are Sheriffs and deputies who are dog hunters. They do not respond. I even heard at that mtg, "I hope his farm doesn't catch on fire," the guys remarking were volunteer firemen. Shame...All these statements can be backed and proven. At the time I had even called the chairman of that mtg (NC State Highway Patrolman) and asked him why this could happen on the roads? He would never answer me. I told him he must have family that are dog hunters. I also told the various commissioners it is just a matter of time before someone is killed and there will be a lawsuit. In the last two seasons there has been children shot during dog hunting season. It never makes the paper. There have been other cases around the state as well. It just gets covered up.

6. Moving forward to present day, the amount of unwanted trespass is increasing. I have heard 2020 was a record setting year of phone call complaints. I would love to see them made public record. By 7:30am on numerous hunts we hunted, the hunt was over. Dogs were hanging around our tower stands at sunrise or after they turned loose at dawn; the dogs literally ran around all day till dusk. If they could not catch them, they would turn them loose again late afternoon so maybe the lost dog would join the pack. I've been told more than once "to keep my damn hands off their dogs." I said your dogs are on our land. If it is running across it, I am going to capture it. 2021 I am considering about buying a spare POS vehicle and putting a dog box on it and I'm going to start hauling them to the pound. This takes time away from my business. Weekends we are open to the public. We conduct a lot of Nationally ranked long range precision rifle matches. I am the Charlotte Motor speedway of Nascar. Not many like my facility on the east coast. I must constantly shut down my matches, training classes or people paying by the hour. Many times, we have had to refund people part of their hourly rate due to the fact I got dog trucks in my parking lot, all along side of my property line, trying to retrieve their dogs. I have dogs running all in my pistol bays, rifle ranges, parking lots and even had them run into my 2,500 sq ft clubhouse. Not to mention on occasion even jumping into the back of a customer's minivan because the back hatch was open when they were transporting their rifles (in a case) to the firing line. Funny at first till hours later I get a call that the odor from that wet dog is still lingering in the vehicle. I have 9 video cameras through the property. I can back this up along with 100's' of members and visitors who frequent my facility. Again, it is my fault for owning land in a dog hunting county. I pay plenty in taxes. I cannot just pick 100 acres and move to another county. I have been told to put up a 10' fence then to keep their dogs off my land. If NC wants to give me a grant, I would be glad to do it. I only need 4'-6' to keep them out but I should not have to pay for it.

7. So, end of season now and I will be conducting my annual policing up of ditched dogs with no collar or gps anymore. The local pounds are already filling up. Call them for yourselves. 1/2 the time during season the numbers are faded off and I cannot call the owner anyways. It is a known practice of dumping dogs at the end of season. There are some clubs though that will come and get them from me and help foster them out.

So, I have covered 7 areas of concern. I have 45 others, but I will spare you. My blood pressure is starting to rise due to the reminiscing and my professionalism is about to come to a halt. In a short summary, we are tired of it. I am tired of hunting dogs running through my land that I own and pay taxes on. I am tired of my friends who own land and pay taxes on having their hunts ruined. I am self-employed and spend a lot of time on my 100 acres doing maintenance. I see dog trucks literally use the game lands next to me 6 days a week, yet they never shoot. We just like to hear them holler, well do it in your yard. The game lands have become their own private hunting property. It is supposed to be a public game lands, clubs running dogs through it 6 days a week is not public for everyone. You will get overrun by trucks and dogs. I know for a fact clubs lease 6,000 acres of private land around the game lands. Other areas of the county they cannot get in front of their dogs. They will turn loose on 50 acres 2 miles away, the dogs are running through numerous parcels of land they do not have permission to hunt, only to wait on the highway to see what deer they push off the land they do not have permission to be on, then shoot them in the right of way or as they cross the highway. I challenge you to go to YouTube and look up dog hunting. Warning though, when the dogs catch up to the deer before the handlers do, they maul to them to death. I am a combat vet, and I cannot watch the cruelty. This is not hunting! It is disgusting and cruel. I have screen shots from social media of hunters laughing about what their dogs did to the deer once they caught it. Also, you can see plenty of examples of this and of vehicles stopping on the double yellow lines and a guy jumping out and running down the middle of the road with a go pro on his head, videoing himself shooting at deer running across the road. At times I have seen vehicles approaching in the upper portion of the video frame. Most counties in NC you have to be elevated off the ground at least 8’ to discharge a firearm. Is the safety of the citizens of those counties more important than those of other counties?

Go to the lake on a jet ski and run up into a cove while some guys are bass fishing and see what happens! No difference. I am primarily a bow hunter due to the challenge it presents itself. With my background and business, hunting with a rifle anymore is boring. If I wanted to shoot at animals running from dogs, I would become a dog hunter. Not one single time has my still hunting

disturbed a dog hunter. 100% of the time they stop and drop the tailgates, my hunt is ruined. What is NC going to do about it? Nothing from what I have seen.

An online portal survey was posted back when the public mtgs were cancelled due to COVID-19 19. Where are the results? I get surveys in the mail about some trapping and turkey spotting survey, why can't one be mailed to every NC License holder? Guess the dog lobbyist cannot influence that one. Why do they need a lobbyist to begin with? I have heard that dog hunters make up less than 9% of license holders. Guess the old saying of the minority is the majority rings true. Another one that comes to mind, if a politician wants to get reelected, do nothing. No offense but I am tired of getting told our hands are tied or not our department you need to call so in so. Well, I have. For years now and many others have as well.

There is a reason more and more NC hunters are paying to go out of state and hunt in other states. This last week of season, I have pictures of dogs running through two different properties we hunt every day except Christmas day. Besides, we never get a break from them, the wildlife sure does not. The landowner has no rights here. The local law enforcement will not do anything, the wildlife officers cannot do anything and all I hear is the legislature branch controls laws regarding dog hunting. Why? Don't you have better things to do for the North Carolina Residents? Fix the potholes on the beltline on south 1 near Buck Jones Rd please. My wife drives me nuts everyday about it.

I just want to enjoy the heritage of being a landowner. I am not trying to ban deer hunting but a method. We cannot shine spotlights and shoot them, but we can chase them out of the woods with dogs and shoot them as they run by? That is fair chase for ya! There are reasons many other states do not allow this method anymore. Why are the counties west of the "dog line" treated differently than the ones east of it? Is being a landowner there more important than being a landowner here? Deer were not designed to be run for miles. They do not have sweat glands. Biologist in other states I have discussed this with have told me this has long term repercussions, not to mention the effects on a pregnant doe or during the breeding period when bucks are run down from lack of food, now they burn up all their stored energy running from dogs and some end up dying from exhaustion.

As I wrap this up, I wonder who it will be shared with? Will the contents of this make it to the Army of Orange Facebook group? More smearing of my business, my family? Recent phone calls and discussions over the years have. When a phone call or email with concern gets spread around and they wonder why people will not show up at public hearings anymore? I have encouraged many other individuals to make phone calls or send emails, but they are afraid to put their name out there publicly. I do not blame them. I saw the Granville County bill that was passed and within an hour last year the Army of Orange had posted a picture of the bill on their Facebook page with giant red lettering "DOA," which means dead on arrival. I won't name drop any names, but some were thanked for letting it "Die" out. It had not even gotten to the voting process in Raleigh. I feel for the citizens in Granville county who supported this bill by which the county commissioners passed 100%, only to get shot down in Raleigh. That is encouraging that their voices are heard. I have thick skin till the threats against my business and my family becomes real.

As stated, before I challenge you to either put it on a ballot or send out a survey to all licensed hunters in NC and make the NC Wildlife Resource Commision release the online results from earlier in 2020. There has been repeated request by phone calls and emails. All this tells me is that you do not want us to see the results. There are only a few options from that one. It is our heritage blah blah blah, then the 100's if not 1,000's of landowners and hunters who voice their facts of constant harassment from hunters, illegal trespass from dogs and their method of hunting disturbed every time they want to enjoy their private property. Something needs to be done. We want to see the results. I also have screen shots of them sharing that survey to dog clubs in VA, SC, and Al. Also, when I posted the "Public Link" from the NC Wildlife FB page, they screen shot my post and put it on their page. The comments on that made against me are why people are getting more and more un involved. I know this is not something that anyone can take care of, it is 12yr old behavior. I wanted to show again, why the mailing of a survey to me is the best option. NC registered license holders only.
The NC Wildlife Resources Facebook Page has listed currently the results of the wild turkey survey. The dog hunting one was released months prior to this yet remain undisclosed. Here's a link to that one. It can be done. If you want it to be conducted? https://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Hunting/Documents/Turkey/2020_Summer_Observation_Survey_Summary.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0NYJjCJG12yPkRl-Jf4YxrgcQ7abRNm8h8CsMuZqjsg29M5QX-iP9i2Y4

NC Wildlife Resources Commission
October 16, 2020 ·

Always be aware of your surroundings and positively identify your target before pulling the trigger. Homes, vehicles or even people could be in front of or behind your target, so hunters should opt for binoculars or a spotting scope to be sure they're taking a safe shot.

Reminder: Anyone hunting deer during a deer firearms season, regardless of weapon, must wear hunter orange visible from all sides. This requirement does not apply to a landholder, his or her spouse and children if they are hunting on the landholder's property, but it is still highly recommend.

So again, why is it okay to discharge a firearm in the roadway?

NC Wildlife Resources Commission
August 3, 2020 ·

A rule prohibiting the possession or use of any substance that contains excretion from a cervid for the purposes of taking or attracting wildlife, was approved by the Commission for the 2020/2021 season. However, 10 letters of objection to this rule were received by the NC Rules Review Commission, making it subject to legislative review in the January 2021 session.

It only took 10 letters of objection about excretion from a cervid? How many letters and phone calls have you received over the years about dog hunting? How many times does my still hunting bother someone else? Never. Every time the dogs start running, my and many others enjoyment has ended for the day.
Include something in your annual hunting survey that is sent out each spring. It can be done.
Are you listening to the voice of your citizens, or the lobbyists?

Thank you again for your time.

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