



# WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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Sheriff Dave Brown  
Skamania County, WA

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Sheriff Dave Brown

### Wyoming

Sheriff Danny Glick

April 3, 2015

Greetings,

The membership of the Western States Sheriffs' Association unanimously approved the attached resolutions at their general business meeting on March 26, 2015. These resolutions are being forwarded to you with the genuine hope that the leadership within our United States Congress will take appropriate action in accordance with the positions put forth and agreed to by our organization.

A great deal of discussion and debate was had regarding these positions. These issues are important to our membership and continue to impact our ability as Sheriffs to effectively carry out our duties.

I share the sentiment of our membership and encourage you to diligently consider and debate the issues we find important to our efforts as Western Sheriffs.

If you should find you would like further clarification or would like contact, please have your staff call or email our executive director and arrangements can be made to meet and discuss these issues.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Dave Brown  
Skamania Co. WA  
President, WSSA



WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-04  
March 26, 2015

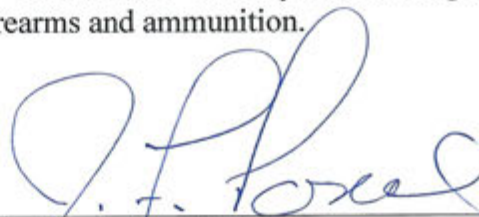
- WHEREAS;** The Western State Sheriffs' Association was formed "to improve and provide effective service and protection to all citizens" of its constituent states; and
- WHEREAS;** The Office of Sheriff carries with it special responsibility for promoting not just public safety but the rule of law and fidelity to the United States Constitution and the Constitution and laws of the states represented by the Western State Sheriffs' Association; and
- WHEREAS;** The Western State Sheriffs' Association believes that exercise of the right to keep and bear arms by responsible, law-abiding persons is consistent with, and protective of, public safety; and
- WHEREAS;** M855/SS109 cartridges provide a reliable and affordable source of ammunition for many weapons used by law enforcement and the law abiding public; and
- WHEREAS;** The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in February 2015 proposed a "Framework" reinterpreting federal law to ban the manufacture, importation, and distribution of M855/SS109 ammunition and the potential to ban other common rifle bullets; and
- WHEREAS;** A ban on M855/SS109 ammunition would constrict supplies and raise the price of 5.56 x 45 mm ammunition generally, hindering the ability of law enforcement officers to train with duty and personal firearms chambered in this caliber;
- THEREFORE:** The Western State Sheriffs' Association hereby resolves the following:
- The Western States Sheriffs' Association opposes ATF's February 2015 "Framework" and any interpretation of federal law that would ban common rifle ammunition primarily used by responsible, law enforcement and law-abiding persons for sporting and other legitimate purposes;
  - That ATF should interpret federal statutes and regulations in a manner consistent with the United States Constitution, and the intent of the law as dictated by Congress;

- That ATF should consider the effects its interpretations of federal law and consult with law enforcement agencies regarding access to ammunition and training by law enforcement officers in considering how such interpretations impact officer safety;
- That a copy of this resolution be delivered to ATF Director B. Todd Jones to help guide further consideration of ATF's February 2015 "Framework" and any other attempts at interpreting relevant federal laws related to firearms and ammunition.



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Sheriff Dave Brown, President  
Western States Sheriffs' Association



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Jim Pond, Sheriff (Ret.)  
Executive Director WSSA



WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-03  
March 26, 2015

- WHEREAS;** The Western States Sheriffs' Association represents Sheriffs from 15 western states to provide access to continuing education and training as well as a voice for Sheriffs on federal policies and laws that impact our communities; and
- WHEREAS;** The Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution Act, 8 USC, Section 1073, is a Federal law designed to aid in the apprehension for prosecution of a person who moves or travels in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to avoid criminal proceedings; and
- WHEREAS;** The primary purpose of the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution Act is to permit the Federal Government to assist in the location and apprehension of fugitives from state justice; and
- WHEREAS;** The United States of America recognizes 566 tribal nations as domestic dependent nations with sovereignty within the United States; and
- WHEREAS;** The Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution Act does not currently provide permission for the Federal government to assist in the location, apprehension or prosecution of fugitives from state justice who move from non-tribal land to tribal land within the same state or a different state; and
- WHEREAS;** Flight to avoid prosecution onto tribal lands both delays and denies justice for victims, endangers tribal communities and thwarts the legitimate aims of Federal, state and tribal justice systems;
- THEREFORE:** Let it be resolved that the Western States Sheriffs' Association supports an amendment to strengthen the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution Act in order to provide Federal assistance and/or charges for fugitives from state justice who flee to tribal lands to avoid state prosecution.



SIGNATURES:



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Sheriff Dave Brown, President  
Western States Sheriffs' Association



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Jim Pond, Sheriff (Ret.)  
Executive Director WSSA



WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02  
March 26, 2015

**STATEMENT:** The Sheriffs' primary duties are to serve, protect, and enforce the Constitution and Laws of their State and Nation. Sheriffs' follow the Rule of Law in their service and urge that the Rule of Law be followed in the face of this border crisis. The existing laws should be fully enforced and there should be no efforts to circumvent these laws. Also, to ensure the safety and security of our Nation the southern, northern and maritime borders should be effectively and efficiently secured. The sheriffs serving those counties along the borders are in the epicenter of this crisis, though every sheriff recognizes the negative impacts of what crosses the borders illegally: smuggling of contraband, illegal drugs, exploitation of human beings and the infiltration of subversives bent on doing harm to our counties, the States and this Country.

**WHEREAS:** Federal law mandates border security. The quality of life normally enjoyed by our citizens is being jeopardized by an unsecure border that enables transnational criminals and their accomplices to prey on our citizens; and

**WHEREAS:** Border Security must be a standalone priority for the Federal Government; and

**WHEREAS:** Violence against innocent citizens, public officials, law enforcement, and rival drug and human trafficking groups in Mexico continues to escalate and cross international boundaries; and

**WHEREAS:** The reduction of the Federal Government's enforcement of border security and prosecution of the criminal element places our citizens in harm's way. This leaves the burden on local governments to bear the costs associated with apprehension, prosecution, and incarceration of this criminal element; and

- WHEREAS:** Elected Sheriffs have a statutory duty to protect and secure the Freedoms and Liberties of our citizens and must do so with or without the help of our federal law enforcement partners and policy makers; and
- WHEREAS:** Working with limited budgets and staffing, Sheriffs of the Western United States struggle to find ways to enhance the quality of life and safety for those they serve and to deter those who cross our borders to promote their criminal activities; and
- WHEREAS:** Local governments are not funded to provide solutions and programs but are cognizant of the requirement for bringing relief to our citizens who are impacted by the lack of border security; and
- WHEREAS:** Several federal prosecution policy changes have had a significant impact on how state and local authorities manage criminal justice prosecutions and have further burdened state and local resources sidetracking those resources from addressing criminal activity and its effects on our community; and
- WHEREAS:** Without aggressive prosecution of all of those committing criminal acts occurring as a result of breaching our border, the American people will continue to see a border that is an open opportunity for the criminal element to exploit by entering the United States to prey on this country and its citizens;
- THEREFORE:** Let it be resolved that the Western States Sheriffs' Association encourages Congress to direct the appropriate Federal agencies to do the following:
- Fully secure all of our borders.
  - Fully reimburse Sheriffs for the costs associated with housing of illegal aliens being charged with state crimes.
  - Return to the original guidelines as set forth in Operation Streamline for the prosecution of persons crossing the United States Border illegally.
  - Return to previous policies of assisting local governments and law enforcement agencies
  - Reduce the burdensome reporting requirements and restrictions on Federal grants.

SIGNATURES



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Sheriff Dave Brown, President  
Western States Sheriffs' Association



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Jim Pond, Sheriff (Ret.)  
Executive Director WSSA