Dear MLA:

I write to request that the provincial government table Bill 4, the Firearm Violence Prevention Act. Bill 4 is being rushed through before the public can find out that it is a mishmash of poorly thought-out rules, as was pointed out in Victoria by MLA Adam Olsen. The government has failed to consult with any of the B.C. First Nations, key stakeholders such as the B.C. Wildlife Federation, nor any lawful and responsible firearms organizations directly impacted by this bill.

Bill 4 is unnecessary. Federal laws already tightly regulate hunters and sport shooters. There is no need for additional B.C. laws that poorly duplicate the Firearms Act.

There are over 326,000 federally licenced firearms owners in B.C. who are monitored scrupulously by the RCMP. According to Statistics Canada data, licenced firearms owners are less violent than other Canadians. And we vote.

Bill 4 invents complex new rules for shooting ranges to solve a non-existent problem. The government has shown no evidence that gangsters frequent gun ranges. None.

B.C. has many small gun clubs that would be forced to close by the heavy-handed restrictions imposed by Bill 4. The complex and burdensome regulations that Bill 4 imposes would devastate the many small shooting ranges, mostly volunteer-operated, that are popular in rural B.C. If small gun ranges are forced to close, that will eliminate opportunities for safe firearms use.

Bill 4 is disingenuous and unnecessary. Physicians already have the option to notify police about patients who pose imminent threats. By removing the consequences of false claims, Bill 4 puts hunters and sport shooters at risk of legal jeopardy from false, even malicious, accusations.

Bill 4 stigmatizes hunters and sport shooters by assuming anyone owning firearms -- or toys that look like firearms -- are a threat.

We are all concerned about the problem of increasing gun violence from gangs and criminals. Bill 4 does not address these important issues.

Bill 4 must be tabled until the government undertakes meaningful and substantial consultation with the BCWF, member clubs, lawful firearms owners, First Nations, and the public.

Thank you for considering my objections. I would appreciate a response and ask you to vote against rushing this legislation through.

Respectfully,

[name]:

[address]:

[postal code]