



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

March 7, 2026

Governor Mark Gordon  
200 West 24th Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0010

Dear Governor Gordon:

Wyoming's House Bill 130 (and its Senate counterpart - SF 101) is being presented as a measure to protect the Second Amendment. But in reality, this proposal risks doing something far different: weakening law enforcement and making it harder to remove dangerous criminals from Wyoming's communities.

The legislation undermines law enforcement by threatening Wyoming police officers with criminal charges, civil lawsuits, and steep financial penalties for their employers simply for cooperating with federal law enforcement on firearm investigations—even when those investigations target violent offenders, traffickers, or organized criminal networks.

At the same time, the bill allows virtually anyone to sue law enforcement agencies for perceived violations, potentially exposing local governments and taxpayers to unnecessary and costly litigation. Instead of empowering officers to do their jobs, HB 130 forces them to second-guess every decision they make when firearms are involved.

That hesitation is dangerous.

Many of the most serious gun crimes today—international firearms trafficking, cross-border smuggling, terrorist cartel-linked straw purchasing, airport security violations, and financial crimes tied to arms trafficking—are primarily federal offenses. In many of these cases, **Wyoming law has no parallel statute at all**. Without federal cooperation, these serious crimes may never be prosecuted.

These are not hypothetical scenarios.

Investigations into firearms trafficking networks often involve multiple states and even international borders. The Department of Homeland Security, through agencies like Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, frequently leads these cases. Local officers are often the first to encounter the activity, and federal partnerships and joint task forces are what allow investigators to dismantle the larger criminal networks behind it.

HB 130 disrupts that cooperation by prohibiting Wyoming police officers from even referring such violations of the law to Federal authorities without facing serious penalties. For

example, Wyoming has no standalone straw-purchasing statute, making federal prosecution essential in many of these cases. Under HB 130, however, these officers may not support in any way investigations involving the purchase of a firearm on behalf of a prohibited person or trafficking network. These criminal cases frequently involve terrorist cartel-linked gun trafficking or weapons being routed through multiple states to Mexico or Canada. With the passing of this bill and the protections it will provide criminals, Wyoming may very well become a magnet for straw-purchasing crimes.

Further, while supporters of HB 130 claim its penalties will be limited to “solely” enforcing federal firearms regulations, in practice law enforcement officers responding to incidents rarely control how a case evolves through the criminal justice system. A situation that begins as immigration enforcement, drug trafficking, or human trafficking can ultimately result in a federal firearm charge once evidence is fully examined in court. HB 130 places officers in the impossible position of predicting future prosecutorial decisions in real time.

Instead of strengthening public safety, the bill risks isolating Wyoming law enforcement from the very partnerships that help them protect their communities. Officers responding to dangerous situations could find themselves asking not just “What protects the public?” but also “Will helping here cost me my badge, my career, or my personal finances or our department’s budget?”

No officer should have to make that calculation in the middle of an emergency or critical incident event.

Even more troubling, the bill’s broad definition of “material aid” could even discourage officers from assisting federal agents during armed incidents if a firearm is involved. In extreme circumstances, officers may hesitate to respond to federal partners in distress simply because the legal consequences of helping are unclear. This absurd outcome makes Wyoming more dangerous.

That is not how effective law enforcement works.

Wyoming has always valued both the Constitution and the rule of law. Strong Second Amendment protections and strong law enforcement are not opposing ideas—they are complementary ones. Law-abiding gun owners deserve to know that violent criminals, traffickers, and smugglers will be aggressively pursued and prosecuted.

But legislation that punishes officers for cooperating with federal authorities risks turning that principle on its head.

At a time when criminals operate across state lines and international borders, the answer cannot be to divide law enforcement. Public safety depends on cooperation between federal, state, and local officers working together to stop crime and protect our communities.

HB 130 may be well-intentioned, but as written it risks creating hesitation where decisiveness is needed, lawsuits where cooperation is required, and confusion where clarity should exist. It also risks attracting criminal activity to the state by effectively giving state immunity from violating certain federal laws.

The Honorable Mark Gordon

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Wyoming's citizens deserve laws that support the men and women who protect them—not laws that make those officers afraid to do their jobs and risk increasing crime in their state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Lyons", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Todd Lyons  
Acting Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement