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In the United States Constitution, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment says:

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

Our Michigan Constitution in Amendment 13 of the Michigan Bill of Rights states:

“Every person has a right to bear arms for the defense of himself and the state.”

These amendments have stood the test of time and legal challenges. In support of these two constitutional bills of rights, our Delta County Gun Owners Association mission statement is:

*To promote the safe and legal ownership and use of firearms as expressed in our inalienable rights under the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America so that those who are legally permitted to purchase and sell firearms may collect and use firearms for competitive events, for other sporting uses in the community, for self-defense and for the preservation of our constitutional republic.*

While we acknowledge the right of big box stores, as private entities, such as Walmart, Meijer, Dicks Sporting Goods, Aldi's, etc. to enact policies to determine how they conduct business, we as consumers also have the right to take our business elsewhere. Their current policies have the effect of limiting the ability of law-abiding citizens to exercise their civil rights. We feel that all citizens should avoid shopping at ANY establishment that would deny the individual his or her civil rights.

Because most local retailers will welcome our business and will not deny our civil rights because of political pressure, we urge everyone to patronize our local retailers who respect our rights and support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

DCGOA realizes that in many rural communities, the big box store is the only choice for many goods. In our community of Delta County, we ask you to decrease your spending at these establishments as much as you can. If each of us does what we can to make sure that these stores, who do not support our civil rights, feel an economic pain, we can all stand up for our civil rights and correct this.

Policy choices that these big box stores are making may not affect you today but what will happen if they feel no consequences for their actions and decide to stop selling hunting ammunition and firearms? When will you step up to demand your civil rights?

**Whenever possible patronize the local retailer that supports your rights and avoid the big box chains that do not.**