[Your Name]

[Your Address Line 1]

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[Today’s Date]

Name of Member of Parliament

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K1A 0A6

Dear Name of Member of Parliament:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding Bill C-21, specifically the amendment to Section 84 with the addition of sub-section 3.2, as follows:

“*Certain firearms deemed to be prohibited devices*

(3.‍2) For the purposes of sections 99 to 101, 103 to 107 and 117.‍03, a firearm is deemed to be a prohibited device if

(a) it is proved that the firearm is not designed or adapted to discharge a shot, bullet or other projectile at a muzzle velocity exceeding 152.‍4 m per second or at a muzzle energy exceeding 5.‍7 Joules; and

(b) the firearm is designed or intended to exactly resemble, or to resemble with near precision, a firearm, other than an antique firearm, that is designed or adapted to discharge a shot, bullet or other projectile at a muzzle velocity exceeding 152.‍4 m per second and at a muzzle energy exceeding 5.‍7 Joules.”

The addition of the aforementioned sub-section has an adverse influence on a safe recreational activity called Airsoft, a sport similar to the more well-known Paintball.

Airsoft is an extremely safe sport that encourages a healthy, active lifestyle, provides a supportive community for Canadian Armed Forces veterans, and supports economic gain for a vast number of small businesses. The benefits of this sport far outweigh the devastating consequences of how this bill would affect businesses, and the community simply because the equipment *resembles* a firearm.

There is no doubt that Airsoft is a safe sport. Airsoft guns fire small plastic projectiles that typically produce a regulated 1.5 joules of energy. Paintball markers, already in use with a safe and accepted sport, produce up to 14 joules of energy. The Criminal Code of Canada states that airsoft guns are *not* real firearms and do not require a license as they do not exceed 152.4 m/s and 5.7 joules, yet sub-section 3.2 a) states that because airsoft guns do not exceed 152.4m/s or 5.7 joules they would become prohibited firearms. Of course, this is absurd.

Thousands of Canadians across our country play Airsoft. As with most sports, the fun and competitive nature encourages physical fitness, including the maintenance of a healthy diet and exercising off the field in order to be in good physical condition while on the field. Many universities and colleges have established Airsoft and Paintball clubs for physical exercise and teamwork including the Royal Military College of Canada, found here: [RMC Recreation Clubs *(https://www.rmc-cmr.ca/en/athletic-department/recreation-clubs)*](https://www.rmc-cmr.ca/en/athletic-department/recreation-clubs)

Mental health is a main focus as our society evolves, and sadly, a key group of individuals who suffer most from mental health issues are Canadian Armed Forces veterans. There is a rising number of CAF veterans who find a sense of community and a healthy outlet through Airsoft after their time serving our country. Military simulation is a part of Airsoft and is proven to have beneficial effects on veterans with post traumatic stress disorder. [(A Qualitative Examination of Veteran Participation and Experiences: Military Simulation and Effects on Combat-Related PTSD - https://search.proquest.com/openview/d67c381a865c55cdbfba7251fcad914c/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y)](https://search.proquest.com/openview/d67c381a865c55cdbfba7251fcad914c/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y)

Hundreds of businesses and thousands of jobs across Canada rely on the Airsoft industry: importers, Airsoft-specific stores, hobby and surplus stores, content creators, technicians, event coordinators, and Airsoft fields including urban indoor spaces and rural outdoor locations. The worldwide Airsoft gun market alone is worth 1.75B USD ([Airsoft Market Report](https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/airsoft-guns-market)) and adds tens of millions of dollars to the Canadian economy but under this law, these businesses would have no choice but to close their doors.

I understand that this bill aims to reduce gun violence in Canada, however, Airsoft does not contribute to gun violence. In fact, other nations such as Japan have used Airsoft as a response to strict gun control. Japanese policy makers allow the manufacture, sale, and ownership of Airsoft guns *because* they resemble real firearms but pose no threat to the public.

In conclusion, Airsoft is a safe, thriving, and growing sport that benefits the Canadian economy, physical and mental health for all participants but especially PTSD survivors, and has generated a community of inclusion and diversity.

Airsoft is great for Canada and I ask that all the above factors be taken under advisement before passing a bill that destroys this vital community.

Yours truly,

[Your Signature]

[Your Name]