



Notwithstanding the fact that Idaho has for many years effectively eliminated the 50 BMG rifle as a legitimate hunting rifle in Idaho because of the 16 lb. weight limit restriction on all hunting firearms, the new proposed regulation changes would expand the existing restrictions to include many other legitimate firearms that have been used for hunting purposes for decades. FCI views the proposed regulation changes as thinly veiled gun control measures that are unwarranted and discriminatory. The proposed changes are unnecessary particularly for the reason stated, "*due to technological advances*", because the .50 BMG, alone has been around since the 1920's. The 50-70, .50 Alaskan, since before Idaho was a state. These firearms have been used to hunt deer, bear, elk and buffalo for decades. Other centerfire .50 cal firearms such as the Remington rolling block pistol and rifle were issued in .50 centerfire (50-70) as well as Trapdoor Springfields and Sharps rifles. There's nothing "new" or "technologically advanced" about those calibers to suddenly warrant action.

There are several other aspects of this discussion that could be brought up for debate, but we will limit our response at this time to the area you have requested information on. That is, "technological advances" that effect hunting in the state of Idaho that would justify prohibiting the use of 50 caliber or larger centerfire cartridges.

Arrangements are being made now for FCI to be represented at the commissioners meeting scheduled for January 10th in Boise. Unfortunately the meeting is scheduled in conjunction with the annual SHOT Show and I will not be able to attend.

FCI and the Fifty Caliber Shooters Association (FCSA) would like to offer our services to the Fish & Game Commission to answer any questions they might have relating to the legitimate use of 50 caliber and larger calibers in hunting not only in the United States, but in other countries as well. We also recommend the commission give serious thought to creating a bi-partisan committee to study this question in detail. The FCSA or FCI would be more than happy to participate formally as a part of such a committee.

We ask all the commissioners to examine the facts with an open mind and oppose a change in the existing regulations that would further discriminate against legitimate hunting calibers.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Fifty Caliber Institute

CC: President Lynn McMurdo, Fifty Caliber Shooters Assn. (FCSA)  
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