

I am not against gun ownership. I have been a gun owner and hunter myself. I understand it is a fascinating hobby for some and a strongly felt right by others. I am among those who feel it is an unalienable right. One of course would like to not only own a gun or guns but be able to use them as part of a hobby, staying sharp for self-defense purposes, sighting rifles for hunting or just enjoying the pleasure of shooting firearms or competing.

However, although gun ownership is a right, so is home ownership. I would say it is a much greater right. Penultimate to any other consideration. Some of us would own a gun to protect our homes. To protect those we love who live with us and ourselves. A home is a sacred place. A gun range is not. Gun ranges may be necessary for the exercise of a hobby but then again, many cannot afford a home or must save for years before buying a home. So, owning a gun does not mean that gun ranges must be built to accommodate a minority of the populace because they have no place to shoot them. Just because the right exists like home ownership it does not mean it should infringe on the rights of others who have the bulk of their wealth and their lives invested in their homes long before a shooting range within the vicinity was conceived.

I have heard gunfire when outside and from within my home. It is very distracting and disturbing. I am less than a mile away from the proposed gun range. I am vehemently opposed to it's construction and feel it would violate every homeowner's right to peace and the pursuit of happiness within earshot. The hum of highway noise is one thing, but the punctuated bursts from gunfire racking the atmosphere I have already experienced while living in my current neighborhood was unnerving. I love my home. Bought it for the location and the peace and tranquility of the neighborhood. If I heard persistent gunfire I would not have given buying it a second thought when I was looking to buy a home. It would have killed any desire to make an offer on it like a well-aimed bullet to the head from a sharp-shooting sniper.

I lived on a farm as a teenager. Hunted and trapped. During small game and deer season it sounded like a war being fought in the surrounding woods. This was disconcerting to me even though I was well acquainted with guns and an active hunter myself but it did end with the hunting season.

There is no eminent domain here with the proposed gun-range. It would not be for the benefit of the greater good. It would make about as much sense as hunting in the Urban Wilderness which is another attempt to give something to everyone. Those seeking the nurture of nature and sportsman like mountain bike riders and hunters. Although I am sure high-powered rifles are not allowed, it is simply senseless and dangerous to hapless strollers to allow guns to be fired near them. I hope that not only will common sense prevail but the unalienable rights of the home-owners anywhere close to this proposed shooting range do too. We were here first and have everything there is to lose meaning our home values and the peacefulness of our neighborhoods. A shooting range is not akin to a public service or an amenity. I fully support their construction but in appropriate areas. Homes and neighborhoods existed here first. I suspect few, even those who own guns would welcome such an obtrusive neighbor. Especially in neighborhoods where "Children Are at Play" and are not War Zones.