

Good evening, I  
thought I'd take a minute to voice my views on the proposed Burlington charter changes. I am opposed to H 566, H 567 and H 568. These would have done nothing to change the outcome of the last two shootings in Burlington. If an alleged dealer was willing to face a murder charge to shoot another alleged dealer, I doubt he'd have been concerned about a weapons charge. The other shooting was police and DEA shooting another alleged drug dealer.

Also the proposed changes go against the Vt. Sportsman's Bill of Rights and probably the VT. Constitution. These changes would open the doors for all 252 Towns in the State instituting their own regulations. Can you imagine the nightmare that would create for sportsman? Not to mention law enforcement? As well intended as the folks in Burlington are, these changes are very bad for all Vermonters, citizens and visiting sportsman. Imagine trying to drive to the Northeast Kingdom from Southern Vermont, Mass. or New York to deer camp with 252 different firearms laws?

Who would decide what dangerous weapons are? There could be 252 different rules. Weapons locked at all times. Again there could be 252 differing laws. Same regarding where alcohol is served. And we have not even thought about Federal laws. In my opinion it's best to drop the idea of Towns changing charter to institute their own law, especially when it contradicts existing State law. Lets concentrate on the real problem facing the safest State in the Union. Illegal Drug use.

Sincerely, Randall Bates,

Bennington/Colchester