00:00:20:04 - 00:00:43:08

Stephen Gutowski

All right. Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to another episode of the Weekly Reload Podcast. I'm your host, Stephen Gutowski. I'm also a CNN contributor and the founder of TheReload.com, where you can head over and sign up for our free newsletter today. If you want to keep up to date with what's going on with guns in America. You can, of course, also buy a membership if you want to dig a little bit deeper into that topic and stay as well informed as possible.

00:00:43:10 - 00:01:08:04

Stephen Gutowski

We aim to deliver sober, serious reporting and analysis for you. We try to stay away from hot takes an opinion as much as possible. Do our own thing. Try to be a little bit different than everybody else on that front. But speaking of staying up to date with what's going on with guns in America, this week we are discussing the latest in the legal fight over President Biden's pistol brace ban.

00:01:08:06 - 00:01:17:13

Stephen Gutowski

And to do that, we actually have Alex Bosco, who is the founder of SB Tactical and the inventor of said pistol brace. Welcome back to the show, Alex. Thanks for joining.

00:01:17:14 - 00:01:20:11

Alex Bosco

Thank you. Thank you so much. I'm glad to be here.

00:01:20:13 - 00:01:26:04

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Can you tell people just a little bit more about yourself, a little more background for anyone of you who might not know?

00:01:26:06 - 00:01:49:04

Alex Bosco

Yeah. I think I mean, I think a lot of people know at this point. I've been on a few shows talking about this, but I invented the pistol brace, back in 2012, and, started the company SB Tactical, which, kind of changed the way people buy guns on the market. And, you know, a lot of people used to buy a rifle.

00:01:49:04 - 00:02:14:11

Alex Bosco

AR. So everybody kind of swung to these, large format pistols because of the brace. And, you know, it was, crazy way. I mean, a lot of people say it's, it's very much like the what happened to me was the American dream. Come up with an idea market, the idea, find somebody to help you sell it, and, eventually, you know, run into a brick wall with ATF.

00:02:14:15 - 00:02:18:21

Alex Bosco

So, I don't know.

00:02:18:23 - 00:02:19:14

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, that you just.

00:02:19:14 - 00:02:37:05

Alex Bosco

That might have been. Yeah, that might not be the traditional American dream, but it was, certainly part of it. And, you know, a lot of that started back in, you know, not to get right into ATF stuff, but, you know, we went from 2012 to 20 1516 before we were starting to have some, you know, discussions with ATF.

00:02:37:05 - 00:02:51:22

Alex Bosco

So it's, you know, it's it's been a crazy ride. And here we are. What is this now to ten, almost 12 years later. So we're still talking about it. We're still around. Hopefully we're going to be around in the next few years as well.

00:02:52:00 - 00:03:24:19

Stephen Gutowski

Well, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals has given you, perhaps a new lease on life or just a short additional one. We'll talk about some of the other cases that have already happened. But you, were part of the group that sued the ATF over its rule that was implemented in 2023, that, sort of effectively reclassified nearly every race gun out there as a, short barrel rifle under the National Firearms Act or against the ATF system.

00:03:24:20 - 00:04:00:00

Stephen Gutowski

It was something like 99% of them, but they couldn't really tell you which ones were impacted and which ones weren't, as which is kind of significant part of this ruling that we're going to talk about. But, you know, and that, of course, just to give people a, refresher where when something is classified as a short barrel rifle under the National Firearms Act 1934, if you do not register that device, that firearm with the ATF and pay a tax stamp that they waved at the tax stamp, which sort of undercuts the concept of the National Firearms Act as a tax law.

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Stephen Gutowski

But, if you don't register and you don't comply with those regulations, you could face years and years in federal prison, as that is a federal felony. And so, there's a pretty significant reclassification effort by the ATF to make your what you produced, effectively something that nobody would want to buy. Right?

00:04:23:05 - 00:04:43:12

Alex Bosco

Oh, that's that's exactly. Yeah, that's exactly why, the implications of this eighth circuit win are so important. you know, the there's really a few things, you know, to kind of go back to the case, what this eighth circuit case is about, logical outgrowth is something that it's a legal term. I needed to learn a little bit about it, too.

00:04:43:12 - 00:05:24:13

Alex Bosco

But if we think about what the ATF originally did is they came up with a rule, they proposed this rule under the Administrative Procedures Act. And we all got a chance to say what we thought about what this rule was going to be and what did they do? They came up with a set of, essentially like, points, a point system that, would determine or help us determine objectively what is and what is not a brace and because I think it was something like 90% or 95 or even 99% of the responses were negative at the end of it, somebody at ATF said, listen, okay, scrap that thing that we just did.

00:05:24:15 - 00:05:38:01

Alex Bosco

Just say that, you know, 99% of these things are not going to be considered, a brace. And essentially the ATF is going to be the arbiter of understanding what is and what is not a brace. So a logical outgrowth on.

00:05:38:01 - 00:05:49:17

Stephen Gutowski

A gun basis to basically they would have to look at any gun before determining whether or not it was an unregistered, illegal SBR or just a regular old firearm.

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Which which is interesting because what they said was, what they said was it's too difficult. There's so many braces on the market is too difficult for us to look at what's on the market and give you an understanding of what is in using and the braces. So everybody in the United States will have to send us. That's easier than coming up with a set of of numbers and numbers.

00:06:13:10 - 00:06:35:05

Stephen Gutowski

And you're not you weren't actually allowed to send you. You couldn't just voluntarily send them your gun through for classification. They don't do that. It was basically just if you get in trouble, we'll figure it out then. and so kind of with a lot of these rules that the ATF has put down during, the Biden administration, they kind of cast the cloud over the legality of all of these, these firearms.

00:06:35:05 - 00:06:37:13

Stephen Gutowski

Right. And it just effectively.

00:06:37:15 - 00:07:03:22

Alex Bosco

Oh, that's that's exactly what they were trying to do. So I think what the ATF, essentially wanted to do was cast enough doubt. And look, we are we are as gun owners, the most law abiding of people because why we don't want to lose our rights to the guns that we love to shoot every day. So, you know, as long as the ATF, which is the entity that regulates everything that we do, is telling you now, we're not sure you might go to jail because as you said before, it's a prison sentence.

00:07:03:22 - 00:07:24:07

Alex Bosco

If you own a short powered rifle that's unregistered, what happens to the sale? You chill the sale. That's what ATF is trying to do. And that, to me, is what's fundamentally wrong about this. You know, you should not have a politicized agency trying to kind of, you know, spin things in a way to bring fear in the eyes of its citizens.

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Alex Bosco

That's not your job. Your job is really to kind of give us direction, which is what frack does with Firearms Regulatory Accountability Commission. Yes, a mouthful, but what they're trying to do is they're trying to say, listen, ATF, you have blinders on. You need to do certain things for the agency for for the people, because the people need to understand that we can do something or we can.

00:07:46:16 - 00:08:07:02

Alex Bosco

We know in our, in our, industry that, firearm under 16in, okay, was a barrel of under 16in and can be fired from the shoulder is a rifle. Why? Because they gave us the parameters. What's hard about giving us parameters for braces? Well, they didn't want to do that. And they've admitted to why they didn't want to do that.

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Alex Bosco

Because they wanted to be able to get to somebody. and put them in prison in some way, shape or form. They don't want to be held to a standard. They want to be able to decide whether or not at the end. And that, to me, is fundamentally wrong, un-American. And what it shows is that the agency has become completely politicized.

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Alex Bosco

So getting back to the case itself, logical outgrowth is essentially what the the judges told the ATF was. The the rule that you came out with was so far different than what you proposed that under the administrative Procedures Act, you cannot do what you've done. You would have to read proposed another rule because it's two different. And that's one of the

points that they lost.

00:08:52:12 - 00:09:10:22

Alex Bosco

On the other point that they lost on. And now I'm talking about Fifth Circuit. So fifth Circuit do this before a circuit. The other point that they lost on was arbitrary and capricious. Now those two terms themselves kind of explain everything. And kudos to to Fppc because they were the ones who did this in the circuit. It was fantastic.

00:09:11:04 - 00:09:42:13

Alex Bosco

Okay. Fantastic win. The only problem is there was a problem and it's not a problem. It's just a criticism I guess. And it's not on FCC, it's on the judges, is that they really didn't enter into much detail on the arbitrary and capricious side. And that's where this win on in the Eighth Circuit is so important, because what the judges did is they really kind of, they took the language that the ATF used, and they threw it back in their face to explain why it was so arbitrary and capricious.

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Alex Bosco

And that's why this win, I don't want to compare the ones because the, the first, the fifth Circuit one was such a great win. I don't want to take the, the wind out of its sails, but the eighth Circuit is really what's going to solidify any future, disruption in the courts or disruption in the industry with, with respect to the sale braces.

00:10:02:19 - 00:10:24:08

Alex Bosco

Because now the ATF has been told, listen, the terms that you've used here, they are considered arbitrary and capricious. So now, in the future, if the ATF wants to come out with some other kind of ideas, they can no longer use the terminology they used. They have to come up with something completely different because those terms have been deemed arbitrary and capricious.

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Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Just because, obviously the ATF position and all of this has been that, you know, there's a sort of loophole in the NFA because of the way that rifles are defined, not by their caliber or their mechanism or their designed, you know, basic, you know, design of the firearm itself. But whether they're intended to design, intended to be shoulder to be pressed against your shoulder and, they felt they've argued that, the pistol braces are sort of a way around this rule to keep people from having to register, what the ATF argues are short barrel rifles.

00:11:07:21 - 00:11:35:19

Stephen Gutowski

And, and so one of the reasons that they made their rule, less than totally specific, I guess, to put it one way or arbitrary and capricious, as the court ruled, was to try and prevent people like you, I guess, right from, finding new ways to circumvent what the ATF wants you to do. and the judges effectively said, you can't do that.

00:11:35:21 - 00:12:03:15

Stephen Gutowski

it's not, these sometimes people are just looking to try and comply with your regulations, which I think is your position here. Right? Like you said, put down, that point system that had a categorical like there wasn't, there was much more objective and not subjective in some of its terms. I imagine that would have been something you would have liked to see from I.

00:12:03:18 - 00:12:18:13

Alex Bosco

So I've had this conversation so many times, and it's that is the point. Like what you're bringing up right now is the point. If they had come up with a system whereby the industry could surmise what is and what is not a brace, we

wouldn't be in this scenario right now.

00:12:18:15 - 00:12:41:12

Stephen Gutowski

Right. And the judge has criticized them specifically for that because they the ATF position seems to be basically and you see this a lot in like social media moderation, where their argument is always we can't give you specific rules because then people will circumvent those, you know, the letter of the law kind of thing. And that seemed to be where the ATF was coming down on, on this rule as well.

00:12:41:12 - 00:12:51:02

Stephen Gutowski

And many of the other rules that they put out, we can't really give you the exact specifics because then people could, make something that's compliant, but we don't like, I guess.

00:12:51:02 - 00:13:12:16

Alex Bosco

Right. But the response of the judges is, this is there are criminal implications here. And people need to be able to understand what the regulations are. Okay? I mean, you need I need to know as a manufacturer of these products, can I make this or can I not make it okay, if I can't make it, tell me how I can make it.

00:13:12:16 - 00:13:33:18

Alex Bosco

And that's part of the issue here, is that I've sat down with ATF for years saying, okay, this is when they started their shenanigans years ago. I was like, well, okay, what what can I do then? Help me, help me understand that? And I think people will remember that, out of, firearms technology branch people, some of the text would say, well, it's got to be this, length of pull issue.

00:13:33:23 - 00:13:56:11

Alex Bosco

We want the length of pull to be anywhere between 13.5 and 40. And all these numbers kind of came out. So they I think initially they did want to come up with some kind of set standard of rule and rules like, essentially like the, the, the GCA or the NFA where it describes stuff. But listen to what I just said, though, right now, what is the GK?

00:13:56:13 - 00:14:19:22

Alex Bosco

What is the NFA? These are acts of Congress okay. And this is why this is just such a blatant, you know, overreach of an agency. They are not allowed to come up with those types of things because why? They're just an agency. Okay? It's Congress that needs to come up with these ideas. And that's essentially it. I think why they lost.

00:14:19:22 - 00:14:43:01

Alex Bosco

Yes. Arbitrary. Capricious. Yes. The the rule was too different from what it came out with. But fundamentally, you know, people have the gun when we see these types of agencies and this type of overreach, we say, well, hold on a second. You're some unnamed bureaucrat. How are you coming up with regulations that have criminal implications on US citizens that aren't codified in law?

00:14:43:03 - 00:15:04:20

Alex Bosco

The the Gun Control Act is codified into law. We know that the definition of a rifle is a barrel of 16in, intended to be fired from the shoulder. You know, why don't you have problems with, a bullpup which is shorter than some of my registered short bound rifles? You know, it's probably because for them, not many people buy bullpup, so who knows?

00:15:04:20 - 00:15:16:19

But the brace, millions and millions of braces were sold. Now, ATF came up with that BBS 7 million number 9 million. I can guarantee you it is way more than that. So, what do you know, I hear.

00:15:16:19 - 00:15:19:15

Stephen Gutowski

Where'd you put the number?

00:15:19:17 - 00:15:36:15

Alex Bosco

Well, I think the 30 million number is, is a number that is, far closer to what it's at. You know, I think, I forget there was a group that came out, it was a congressional research center. Came out with 30 to 70 million, I think, or 30.

00:15:36:18 - 00:15:45:00

Stephen Gutowski

They were telling the ATF was 3 to 7, and then Congressional Research Service was 10 to 40. So you would.

00:15:45:00 - 00:15:57:05

Alex Bosco

I think somewhere I would say closer to 30. I would say closer to the 30 range. Okay. So the higher end of what CRTs came out with. So yeah. So I mean, it's it's a it's something that is in common use.

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Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Regardless of I mean honestly, even the 3 million number, that's a lot of people. That's a lot of Americans. This is by far the most, significant of any of these rules the Biden administration has put in place, or the bump stock ban from the Trump administration before that. None of those really, I think, come close to affecting as many people as this one did.

00:16:21:05 - 00:16:46:07

Stephen Gutowski

but, and to get it's just to put a dot on the, the last point about, you know, the ATF's reasoning for why they wanted to make these the, the rules. So sort of vague and, or not put more specific criteria into their like, point system or what have you. is the judge Grace, who wrote the majority opinion in this case.

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Stephen Gutowski

He said, he was responding to this idea from the ATF, and it said that the regulated parties wish to see more specific metrics does not mean they wish to skirt or circumvent the law, as ATF insinuates, they may simply wish to comply with the law by producing or equipping stabilizing braces that do not have a rear surface area that allows for shorter firing a weapon.

00:17:07:01 - 00:17:14:02

Stephen Gutowski

For instance, he's talking about one of the particular, which is. But is that basically how you feel on this.

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Alex Bosco

That that hits that is home to me because I sat down with ATF on on that with the highest levels of ATF on numerous occasions. I could probably count five different times where I had all of my attorneys in the same room, and we had been sitting there saying, tell us what you want us to do. Give us parameters under which we can work, help us understand and where you want to go with this.

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Like when you do that and you try to comply year after year with the same people, and these people come back to you with a smile on their face saying, oh yeah, don't worry, we're not coming after you. We we're really just trying to figure things out. We want to work with you. And and when you see that and then what you see, when you see the final outcome, which is obviously DOJ coming after, you know, basically coming after your product, you understand that there is a serious disconnect here.

00:18:11:08 - 00:18:36:10

Alex Bosco

And the thing that bugs me the most and why it hits so home is that you have this politicized agency, you know, which is why, if you will end up talking about it, but it's like, okay, so where are we going with this? How do things change from here? You know, and the answer is, I mean, I have, you know, I whiteboard this to myself or I'll even write it down on my mirror sometimes, but it's like, you know, if if this, then that, if this than that.

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Alex Bosco

But if you have a politicized agency and you are a manufacturing company, like, like mine, where we're trying to navigate the industry, it's really hard. I mean, it's really hard to make decisions. Do you buy this new tool for \$150,000? I'm thinking that maybe Kamala, Kamala Harris is going to be the president, and she's going to send the DOJ knocking on your door the next day.

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Alex Bosco

Do you do that? You know, I mean, I've spent millions, millions defending this product. People have been gracious enough to buy this product from us. I am so grateful for all of the people that have bought our product. We have some of the best customers in the industry and I am thankful to them because they have allowed me to fight this.

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Alex Bosco

The sales of this product is what allowed us to stay alive for a year without making any sales. Think about that. Think about all the people that that. And I'm a I'm a private company. I'm not. You know, this is not some big company. It's just this is just us. You know, we have the people that we've hired to me, it's it was really personal.

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Alex Bosco

I like Stephen, like, you have to understand, like when you have the federal government coming down on top of your product after having spoken to them with for years. it's such a difficult thing to deal with. The money aside, yes, it's it's millions of dollars to fight the federal government, that it's personal. It really was personal. That's why this win Efcc's win in the fifth circuit at first and now this eighth circuit went to me, this eighth circuit win is everything, obviously, because my company's name is on the lawsuit, amongst others.

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Alex Bosco

So it's it's a huge win.

00:20:12:13 - 00:20:40:05

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Can you talk a little bit more about what it's been like since, even just since the very beginning, 2012? You invented this product? and then from there you've had, you know, before the rule came out, the ATF has been going back and forth with you guys for years on this. Right. Can you just talk a little bit about how it is, how you've tried to navigate that whole.

00:20:40:06 - 00:21:05:00

Alex Bosco

Yeah, it's it is. So obviously I have, a team of attorneys that works, for us. it really all started, I think, back in was it

2015 was when the first letter came out that said, well, you can you could own it, but if you put it up to your shoulder, you know, then it's going to change the classification simply by use.

00:21:05:06 - 00:21:06:18

Stephen Gutowski

As a redesign. Right.

00:21:06:20 - 00:21:24:20

Alex Bosco

The redesign, that was the whole redesign thing. And I think everybody thought that was ridiculous. There were all these videos of people taking their spoon and cutting a cake and saying, oh, now my spoon is a knife, you know? Does it? How does it how does it work that way? And I think ATF even knew that it was a ridiculous stance.

00:21:24:22 - 00:21:27:08

Stephen Gutowski

Because they rescinded that eventually. Right.

00:21:27:10 - 00:21:50:20

Alex Bosco

Well, yeah, they rescinded everything eventually, but they rescinded that, right after. or was it right before Trump was elected? So I sat down with ATF and we all kind of agreed that this this is ridiculous. Like, you can't you can't say something like this. And they came out with another and they rescinded that ruling and memory hold it because it was no longer on their website.

00:21:50:20 - 00:22:06:13

Alex Bosco

It was gone. And they came up with this 2017 ruling that essentially said, you can incidentally, sporadically and occasionally fire from the shoulder without, you know, running afoul of the NSA. And things went crazy from there.

00:22:06:18 - 00:22:21:07

Stephen Gutowski

Why do they justify this idea of, like, how the user actually, interacts with the firearm being relevant because isn't the definition just supposed to be whether it's designed and intended to be shoulder? And isn't that on the manufacturer side?

00:22:21:09 - 00:22:39:09

Alex Bosco

it is on the manufacturer side. And the judge and in the Eighth Circuit case, the judges actually looked at that and they, they called out ATF because ATF essentially said that they would they were going to look at marketing material from third parties. So. Right. You know, there's a lot you.

00:22:39:10 - 00:22:41:20

Stephen Gutowski

Out there to. Right. That was part of UFC.

00:22:41:20 - 00:23:05:09

Alex Bosco

Correct. Yeah. That's right. That's right. So they also I mean with yeah. Which is and there's a lot of cases that dispute that you can't look at that. But ATF what was it anyway. and they were called out by it and the judges said, hey, you know, if you're going to look at what other people are going, how other people are going to ultimately use it, shouldn't you also look at how the manufacturer actually designed it?

00:23:05:11 - 00:23:24:03

And they didn't do that. They didn't look at what the tactical marketing material was. They looked at what some, you know, some guy on YouTubes material was, which, you know, obviously a judge is going to see that and say, now you sorry, that's not going to work. And,

00:23:24:05 - 00:23:24:15 Stephen Gutowski Also.

00:23:24:19 - 00:23:25:14

Alex Bosco Me, that was.

00:23:25:16 - 00:23:51:00

Stephen Gutowski

Just, I don't think that comes into play in the case necessarily, but I, you know, the main argument or criticism as to why, race guns should, should not be allowed is, and, the ATF has said this directly. I think Merrick Garland has said it. that they claim that it makes the guns, more useful for mass shootings.

00:23:51:00 - 00:24:01:21

Stephen Gutowski

Right. There was a mass shooting in Dayton, I believe, where the shooter had a priest's gun. do you even buy that, basic argument to begin with?

00:24:01:23 - 00:24:22:00

Alex Bosco

You started saying you didn't finish what they're not to take away from what you said. They did say that, but they said that under the guise of the the brace makes the firearm more accurate and therefore more deadly. Right. It's not that it gives them up. You know, it's used more in, in in mass shootings and house mass shootings.

00:24:22:02 - 00:24:45:16

Alex Bosco

The reason the helps mass shootings, according to them, is that it makes the firearm more accurate in that type of argument is is, hopelessly ridiculous, considering that the whole point of a firearm is to make it accurate, everything on a firearm is meant to make it accurate. The, the the, you know, the the scope, the everything on it, you know, the barrel shroud.

00:24:45:16 - 00:25:06:00

Alex Bosco

So you don't burn your hand, the pistol grip, everything on the firearm is intended to make it more accurate. So the next step from there is okay. Well fine. That's your argument. Well then demonstrate to me how millions. Let's just use the 3 million number that ATF says. Okay. So there's 3 million braces that are on them are in the field that people own.

00:25:06:05 - 00:25:29:06

Alex Bosco

How many times were they used in some kind of mass shooting? And I think there's maybe three. Is that what we said? There were three different mass shootings where there was I mean, we've said, what's the whatever, let's say ten, let's say it's 50. Okay. There's 3 million braces on the market. If you were going to tell me that this is something that is so dangerous that it needs to be banned, prove it to me.

00:25:29:08 - 00:25:41:03

Alex Bosco

And and they can't do that. That's something that they've never been able to do. It's just it's a talking point. And judges and court cases don't care much about talking points. So much so this was not a talking point.

00:25:41:03 - 00:26:10:20

Stephen Gutowski

So I've also always like the whole, like you would put a brace on a pistol, which would be a, a firearm with a barrel less than 16in. And that's, the advantage is perhaps in tighter spaces, or for people who are disabled, obviously the main intent of, of the brace to begin with. But, you know, let's say we're, we're just trying to get a shorter barrel and have that on our, on our air platform gun.

00:26:10:22 - 00:26:29:12

Stephen Gutowski

I don't know, I that I've seen a mass shooting where that would have been an advantage to any of the, attackers. Not that they necessarily need advantages in those scenarios because they're just shooting at unarmed people on the streets generally. But, no, it's just something that's stuck out to me before.

00:26:29:13 - 00:26:46:05

Alex Bosco

Yeah. I mean, I think a lot of people I've heard a lot of anti-gun people say the collapsible stocks now are a problem because they make the fire more concealable. And I think some of the comments about the brace was that, well, you know, adding a brace to the firearm, it's it's more concealable. And they make that argument.

00:26:46:05 - 00:27:04:10

Alex Bosco

I mean, think about that. Adding a brace to one of these guns makes the firearm more concealable. Now, you know. So it's it's a ridiculous statement. I've, you know, I've seen a lot of these videos coming out of inner cities where you see these guys with AR 15. Do you think any of those guys have a brace on their gun?

00:27:04:12 - 00:27:07:10

Alex Bosco

None.

00:27:07:12 - 00:27:47:07

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. I mean, it may make the gun slightly more concealable, but not actually concealable. I mean, just the given the length of an AR platform, a firearm, even even one with a barrel that's ten inches or whatever or what have you is still going to be a very long firearm. So that makes sense. But getting back to the legal side, of this, back to the court, situation now that we so one of the other interesting things here is it was a two, one ruling in this eight circuit case, but the dissent wasn't actually on the merits of the argument put forth by you guys and the ATF.

00:27:47:09 - 00:27:57:00

Stephen Gutowski

it was more dealing with what the Fifth Circuit had already done in making rule. Can you just, explain that aspect of it a little bit for us?

00:27:57:02 - 00:28:21:09

Alex Bosco

So, yeah, the, the dissenting judge, you know, we were asking for a preliminary injunction. the sitting judge really didn't have didn't get into any of the detail about, whether it was arbitrary and capricious, because his understanding was that we had already had, the vacate her in the Fifth Circuit. Therefore, there was no need for any kind of preliminary injunction.

00:28:21:11 - 00:28:37:03

Alex Bosco

Do I disagree with the judge? I don't disagree with him, but I think that it was really important, as the other judges insisted, to get into the detail of all of this. So I understand his position. But, certainly, yeah.

00:28:37:05 - 00:29:12:00

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, it was given that that's the dissent here, not necessarily disagreement on the merits. I mean, he doesn't say one way or the other whether he agrees or disagrees, but, and the what the majority ended up doing in this case is not issuing any sort of injunction or vacate or whatever, what have you. They sent it back down to the district court to determine what the right remedy would, could be, because their point, I guess, was that, sure, the rule is currently vacated, but that might not solve all of the issues that you guys have as plaintiffs.

00:29:12:02 - 00:29:32:22

Stephen Gutowski

it might not fix all of the the harm that that you've, incurred, I guess. So what what are we looking at as far as next steps in, in this case? And then overall with including that Fifth Circuit case that his his making rule basically means that the ATF can't enforce it at all anywhere. Right. That was already the case.

00:29:32:22 - 00:29:37:20

Stephen Gutowski

Correct. so what are we seeing now? What are the next steps here?

00:29:37:22 - 00:30:09:02

Alex Bosco

Well, it's going to go back to, Judge Hoffman. who's the judge who, denied us a preliminary injunction after a year. Almost. So we waited a long time for that. It was a difficult thing to to wait for. And when we got the denial is fairly, in my opinion. And obviously, I am a layman. Judge Holland is much more than I do about the law, but it seemed very kind of flimsy.

00:30:09:02 - 00:30:32:01

Alex Bosco

You know, we're not going to grant you because we're not going to grant you an injunction because essentially, you you probably won't win this case. The judges said the opposite, and now it's gone back to Judge Hovland and so I'm assuming at this point, yeah, you know, they've directed him to, I think essentially grant us the preliminary injunction.

00:30:32:03 - 00:31:05:17

Alex Bosco

But with the vacate are already in place. I think he might say, well, okay, I grant you the preliminary injunction, but because there's a vacate or there's really no, there's really no need for the preliminary injunction. not an attorney. So I'm really kind of looking at it from a layman's point of view. What I do know is that because of of the detail in which, this appeals court has responded, it makes it, you know, the second part of your question, where is this going in the future?

00:31:05:19 - 00:31:28:16

Alex Bosco

It makes it very difficult for an artist to, simply turn around, redraft a rule and start over again, because they really have to start. If they're going to try and go after braces again, they're going to have to take a completely different angle, and use completely different terminology. So I don't, I don't understand exactly where they're going to go.

00:31:28:16 - 00:31:50:03

Alex Bosco

I know, look, it's if you're the federal government, and you have limitless money, why don't you just appeal everything? So everything will be appealed. I always look at it that way. There's appeal. The DOJ has appealed and the Fifth Circuit, you know, this will probably be appealed and we'll keep fighting it. You know, and eventually, as we talked about offline, this may go to, you know, the Supreme Court.

00:31:50:05 - 00:31:50:19

00:31:50:21 - 00:32:11:17

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. That's why I wanted to to go next here. So, they as you mentioned, they appealed the Fifth Circuit decision. DOJ did. And it seems likely that they'll probably end up, you know, the Fifth Circuit has been pretty harsh on these ATF rules was, you know, you can look at the Vander stock case, and the bump stock case.

00:32:11:18 - 00:32:51:23

Stephen Gutowski

Where were they? ruled against both of those, and through the throughout the fifth Circuit. So it's probably going to happen with this case as well. And so the last stop for both of those other cases has been the Supreme Court. It seems entirely possible that this could also make it if, for whatever reason, the court, seems highly interested in these cases and, in fact, the ruling in the bump stock case, Cargill v Garland impacted this Eighth Circuit decision, where essentially they use the same analysis to determine whether or not the APA challenge is valid against the rule, because that was one of the arguments the ATF had that this wasn't

00:32:51:23 - 00:33:13:07

Stephen Gutowski

really something you could challenge. and the Eighth Circuit went along with cited the Supreme Court's precedent in, in Garland, or that Cargill v Garland two as reason to go ahead with this case. So, are you expecting that things will make it up there, and if so, that perhaps the court will side with you?

00:33:13:09 - 00:33:35:03

Alex Bosco

Yeah, that's a that's a question that we get. from folks who continue buying our products there, you know, well, what's going to happen in a year or two. What's going to happen in three years? I mean, yeah, I don't have the crystal ball. What I can say is that, we've got a runway now, of I would say the next 4 to 5 years.

00:33:35:03 - 00:33:55:22

Alex Bosco

I mean, I can't I don't see it all depends on what happens. So November, if we have a President Harris. and we have a politicized ATF and DOJ, they are going to try and revamp or whatever it is that they've been doing and try to come after braces, but that's we're talking about two, three years down the road.

00:33:56:00 - 00:34:20:18

Alex Bosco

If we see a different direction where we have a, a President Trump and he's able to, you know, kind of shuffle people in DOJ who've been, more openly political about going after certain types of products. If he's able to do that and kind of clean up the mess that's inside of these agencies, who knows? You know, maybe then that's the end of the line.

00:34:20:18 - 00:34:45:02

Alex Bosco

You know, maybe they will continue appealing and take to take this to the Supreme Court. This lawsuit is, is, it's a very they got a shellacking. and I think the judges, these, these appeals court judges really kind of set a very difficult stage for DOJ to go back and fight this, at a Supreme Court level.

00:34:45:02 - 00:35:17:13

Alex Bosco

I just don't see this happening. This has been, you know, we've been talking about the administrative state now for, you know, for ever since the even before, even when when Trump was around, we've been talking about the administrative state budget for the last 30 years. this is a overreach that I don't think most sane and and let's say open minded, people from DOJ, whether they be of, of left leaning or right leaning, nature, they would look at this and say, no, we don't want this in any agency.

00:35:17:13 - 00:35:26:21

Alex Bosco

So I would imagine that at some point in time, this is this is going to end. I can't imagine they would take this all the way to the Supreme Court. but yeah.

00:35:26:23 - 00:35:46:08

Stephen Gutowski

I mean, the other two have ended up there. You know, we've already got two of these ATF rules up there, so I wouldn't be shocked, although I wouldn't be surprised if this the Vander Stock case, the homemade gun parts, case, ends up shedding further light on, the pistol berry spin case as well. I wouldn't be surprised.

00:35:46:08 - 00:35:59:15

Stephen Gutowski

I mean, like I said, the, Cargill already impacted your eighth Circuit case here. I wouldn't be surprised if the, the next Supreme Court ruling on all this has a similar effect. But, this will.

00:35:59:15 - 00:36:22:11

Alex Bosco

Say I agree. I think what people need to look at, and I don't want this to be understated, is, again, I've said this before. I am a private citizen. I own my own company, and DOJ is an entity that could go after anybody. So they have limitless funds. And essentially it's our funds because it's our taxpayer. It's the money that we use for taxes.

00:36:22:13 - 00:36:44:11

Alex Bosco

I think people need to understand what it means to have to fight the federal government. I mean, we're talking about tens of millions of dollars over years. And I think what's important to understand is that if you're going to be part of this industry, and I've said this before, find a group of people that you like.

00:36:44:11 - 00:37:07:23

Alex Bosco

I don't care who it is. You know, it could be there could be FTC, it could be Joey, it could be an AGR. It could be whoever NRA, it could. You know, frack is the group that we work with. I find somebody and invest in that, whether it be a \$1, \$5 or whatever you can afford. Those are the people that are going to end up helping us.

00:37:08:00 - 00:37:10:23

Alex Bosco

So I can't state that enough.

00:37:11:01 - 00:37:21:00

Stephen Gutowski

And so where things out, that's be tactical today. What what is, your business look like? You're selling braces. What are your plans? right now.

00:37:21:02 - 00:37:44:22

Alex Bosco

As the Ue5, new brace came out, we've got several other braces that we're working on. several other products as well. so that, you know, the direction is moving. it's moving the right way. you know, we've we're kind of, you know, obviously we're always a little bit concerned about the, the industry itself.

00:37:44:22 - 00:38:03:02

Alex Bosco

I mean, everybody remembers what it was like after, Trump won. There was a real big slump. Braces really help that. We're hoping to kind of ride that again. but, you know, SB tactical is really kind of in its 12th year. We've got a lot of

the same folks that are there. They've been through ups and downs.

00:38:03:02 - 00:38:08:11

Alex Bosco

But, I see a I see a healthy future coming up in the next few years.

00:38:08:13 - 00:38:25:20

Stephen Gutowski

Okay. All right. Well, hey, look, we appreciate you joining the show. coming back to talk to us about, this update on the legal situation with SB Tactical and pistol braces and, and, you know, hopefully we can have you on again in the future when perhaps all this is, is finally over.

00:38:25:22 - 00:38:28:10

Alex Bosco

I hope so. So thanks again, Steve.

00:38:28:12 - 00:38:49:16

Stephen Gutowski

All right. Well, we're going to head over to a member segment now, one of my favorite segments. So let's head over there. All right. It's time for my favorite segment on the podcast, the member segment. We haven't done one in a few weeks. I'm glad to be back with one of our well-loved members, one of the people who actually makes this whole publication possible makes the podcast possible.

00.38.49.18 - 00.38.57.16

Stephen Gutowski

and this week we've got Thomas Schrader with us, so. Well, welcome to the show, Thomas. Thank you so much for, for joining us and for for being a good member.

00:38:57:18 - 00:38:59:04

Thomas Schrader

pleasure to be on the show.

00.38.59.06 - 00.39.03.03

Stephen Gutowski

So where where are you located? If you want to us. What part of the country. Yeah.

00:39:03:05 - 00:39:08:12

Thomas Schrader

I'm in Dallas, Texas, so. Okay. Pretty much middle of Texas.

00:39:08:13 - 00:39:24:17

Stephen Gutowski

Nice. I like Dallas. we I mentioned this, I think, before we began, but my favorite place there is is hard eight I've been to. Have you been to Pecan Lodge? That's like the I don't know, for my when I go in the cities I try to ask my like Twitter followers or whatever where to go. Pecan Lodge is always a big one.

00:39:24:17 - 00:39:28:07

Stephen Gutowski

I did enjoy that place. Do you have a favorite barbecue place?

00:39:28:09 - 00:39:47:13

Thomas Schrader

favorite Barkley's, trying to think of it because there's a place that we go to, or at least my parents go to in Allen. I can't remember right now, but it's top of my head. But, you know, a small local, local joint, you know? Okay, then sun and,

it's really good. Yeah. Really? Really.

00:39:47:13 - 00:39:48:06

Alex Bosco

Yeah.

00:39:48:08 - 00:40:10:04

Stephen Gutowski

I feel like that also tends to be the kind of thing, sort of. You know, I'm from Philly area, originally, and it's like with cheesesteaks, you can kind of go, there's a lot. There's let's play everybody actually kind of changes every couple of years. What's supposed to be the best cheesesteak place in Philly right now? Angelo's on in the Italian market is supposed to be the.

00:40:10:09 - 00:40:34:23

Stephen Gutowski

That's when everybody talks about, not that long ago was Del Sandro's. And, you know, Tony looks and it switches around, Jim's I guess I'm wearing a Jim's, stakes shirt right now, but but at the same time, you could go any neighborhood and get a good cheesesteak in Philly. And so I feel like that's kind of how it is in Texas a little bit with barbecue.

00:40:35:00 - 00:40:47:09

Thomas Schrader

yeah, I guess, like, it's, it's kind of like a, you know, there's a lot of like a, you know, I guess pick your, pick your pick your favorite. So, I mean, there's a lot of joints,

00:40:47:11 - 00:40:50:19

Stephen Gutowski

A lot of mom and pop places. Yeah. I mean, makes sense.

00:40:50:21 - 00:40:51:22

Thomas Schrader

Yeah

00:40:52:00 - 00:41:06:21

Stephen Gutowski

but. So what got you into to farm ketosis, or are you into farms for one leg? Is that, generally, our audience tends to be right. This is a firearms policy and politics publication. But, are you into firearms? And if so, when did you start becoming interested?

00:41:06:23 - 00:41:29:17

Thomas Schrader

I mean, I've always been interested in firearms ever since I was young. partly because I come from a military family. My dad served in the air Force for 20 plus years. Retired as a lieutenant colonel. my grandfather, he was in a single corps in the army back in the 40s, 50s. so I've always. And I would later join the Army, back in 14.

00:41:29:19 - 00:41:56:09

Thomas Schrader

Got out in 18. so I've always had an interest because of that. And then also just the media I consumed. I like I watch a lot of action movies, even though I probably shouldn't have as a young child. James Bond, predator, The Matrix, the scene when, like, you know, when Neo in Trinity is about to rescue, you know, doing that rescue mission and they, you know, before they go into the villains, like, they go into the gun room.

00:41:56:11 - 00:41:59:08

Stephen Gutowski

Thanks. The the white, room with all the guns and.

00:41:59:09 - 00:42:18:01

Thomas Schrader

Yeah. So it's like there's such as, it's a cool scene. So, and then also a lot of the VR games I played, like, you know, Call of Duty, James, you know, again, James Bond, but, you know, GoldenEye and, perfect dark. So, you know, I've, I've always been kind of, you know, always been fascinated with firearms.

00:42:18:01 - 00:42:19:02

Thomas Schrader

So

00:42:19:04 - 00:42:51:11

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Yeah. And, you know, I, I feel like I have a similar background there in terms of the, like, media aspect of it. you know, my, my grandfathers are both, in, in the military, but my, my father wasn't I didn't, sir, but I was very intently engaged in with guns through. I mean, video games are a big part of it, but, certainly, movies as well, even though they're obviously not very good at accurately depicting firearms work.

00:42:51:13 - 00:43:03:19

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. they do make them look like, you know, they do, have a cool factor involved in, in both those areas. So you you had a military background. Did you grow up shooting with your dad and grandfather as well? Was that part of it?

00:43:04:00 - 00:43:21:11

Thomas Schrader

So like, we were even though, like, I was a stash of firearms and even though I come from like a rather conservative family, we weren't really gun owners until we finally moved to Texas. And and even then, like, you know, my dad, you know, kind of slowly, gone to firearms like early start to slowly get back into firearms.

00:43:21:11 - 00:43:39:21

Thomas Schrader

Started with, like, lever action rifles, during the, you know, when momma got elected, he really got into, like, the panic, you know, during that panic buying. I remember that. And so he bought an AK. and so I remember, you know, him taking us shooting. I mean, I had opportunities to shoot when I was in the Boy Scouts.

00:43:39:21 - 00:44:00:06

Thomas Schrader

So, one of the first mayor badges I was able to get was the, you know, rifle shooting, which was, you know, really fun. and then during high schools in JROTC, where I got to shoot competitive air rifle. And, I mean, it was a fun experience. One of our coaches was a former Olympian. So is this really cool, like getting advice from him?

00:44:00:07 - 00:44:05:11

Thomas Schrader

Yeah. so it was, pretty, you know, so, you know, I.

00:44:05:11 - 00:44:27:23

Stephen Gutowski

Was over there. Yeah. Guns were around during your formative years, too. and then you you enlisted yourself and served, for four years and did that, carry over, you know, like you said, early on, you made there's plenty of people who are conservative, maybe even have a, military background in their family or themselves who don't automatically become gun owners.

00:44:28:00 - 00:44:40:11

Stephen Gutowski

Was, when you got out, did you how did your attitudes towards guns shift or change, or did you decide to, by yourself at that point or how did things progress for you?

00:44:40:13 - 00:44:57:07

Thomas Schrader

So like for me, it's like, yeah. Well, starting out, like, I, I wanted to get into firearms. you know, it's kind of hard to get into firearms in the military because, you know, you can move around a lot. You might move to a base that may not be or might move in a state that may not be super friendly to firearms.

00:44:57:09 - 00:45:17:01

Thomas Schrader

And so I never really, you know, it wasn't really until like, okay, it's hard to get out and say, okay, I'm gonna move back to Texas. I started, you know, get into it. I say to buy, you know, an AR 15 because one, service connect is like, okay, this is the weapon I'm most familiar with, so I might as well get that.

00:45:17:01 - 00:45:28:00

Thomas Schrader

And then to also, I'm just like, at the time, you know, you had the parkland shooting, and there's all this, like, talk about, oh, we need to ban the AR 15. So I'm like, yeah, I'm just going to buy one just because I want one.

00:45:28:00 - 00:45:46:14

Stephen Gutowski

So yeah, you know it's interesting. That's that's definitely I think the two driving factors that you see for the air Fifteen's popularity, I mean, it is a obviously a very useful rifle. It's modular and and it has a lot of you can configure it to do all sorts of different things as a rifle from a practical standpoint.

00:45:46:14 - 00:46:06:04

Stephen Gutowski

But there's also the, how many people have served in the military and use that platform, and they're used to it and they liked it, and then they get out and they go and get it. And then obviously it's been, at the center of the political fight over guns, which was motivated a lot of people to, you know, kind of like, you say, can't have this.

00:46:06:05 - 00:46:30:04

Stephen Gutowski

Well, I'm going like, I can and I will, and I, I'm certainly going to take advantage while I have the opportunity at this moment. So it's it is interesting to see those the way that all coalesces into the rifles popular and it's, it's, I think fairly unknown, controversial to say it's the most popular rifle in the country.

00:46:30:06 - 00:46:51:12

Stephen Gutowski

since the assault weapons ban expired back in 2004. And it's just fascinating to see those things come together and to hear you talk about it, as well as sort of a direct example of those motivations. You know, I play, and so you got an I 15, what other have you is that mainly what you but you shoot.

00:46:51:12 - 00:47:10:02

Stephen Gutowski

Do you have other firearms? What what do you do now that you're out of the military? You're living in Texas, obviously. Very gun friendly state. Lot of ranges around. I've been to some nice ranges in Dallas Fort Worth. sure. There's probably more than a couple out there. so what what do you primarily focus on these days?

00:47:10:04 - 00:47:34:04

Thomas Schrader

I mean, I do a bit of collecting, and I also do a lot of competition shooting. I mean, I did like, like I say, like I did air

rifle, competitive air rifle back in high school. And then, as soon as I got out or as soon as I got back, like, I started sort of a tinkle or, you know, get my toes into, like, action shooting, Covid kind of happened.

00:47:34:04 - 00:47:53:21

Thomas Schrader

So it's kind of hard to do that. But as soon as that started die down and, I started to go, you know, start doing more action matches, really got into, the brutality matches that's run by in range. okay. I went to, I went to woodland twice now, so I had a lot of fun there.

00:47:53:23 - 00:48:09:11

Thomas Schrader

and so I've been just again, just been doing a lot of competition shooting and, also just doing a lot of, just collecting, you know, old, you know, I like older guns, too. I think my third rifle I bought was, M1 Garen. So let's see. Okay.

00:48:09:12 - 00:48:29:19

Stephen Gutowski

So CMP. Yeah. Yeah. Civilian marksmanship program. Great way to to, get into some of those World War Two era, firearms and some of the originals, you know, from from back then. Really cool program that that's, you know, available to the public that most of you don't know about, right? Yeah. but, yeah, that, you know, we just had the Olympics, right?

00:48:29:19 - 00:48:51:03

Stephen Gutowski

And a lot of people were pretty fascinated by Olympics shooting, mostly the air gun stuff, which which is cool and fun and interesting to watch, and especially the different techniques that they all use and the equipment that they have, or the lack of equipment. It was, what, Turkish shooter, so popular. But, you know, bull's eye and bull's eye shooting is not easy.

00:48:51:05 - 00:49:15:22

Stephen Gutowski

no air gun or otherwise, but I did, you know, I did wonder doing that. You know, the Olympic shooting is cool and fun and and, interesting to watch and super challenging. I would love to see some action shooting in the Olympics, though. You a three gun? Something like that in there would be really cool because as as, like bullseye is all about precision and that is fascinating to watch.

00:49:16:04 - 00:49:38:16

Stephen Gutowski

You know how these shooters can, especially the size of the targets they're shooting at with the size of, I mean, the the ten ring. I think the X ring on the, the 10 millimeter or 10 meter pistol is like almost the same size as the bullet that they're, that they're firing. Yeah. so it's it's fascinating sport, but it would be interesting to see some action shooting in there to, to like, get some movement involved.

00:49:38:21 - 00:49:58:17

Thomas Schrader

Yeah. I mean I would love to see that too. And I think unfortunately that's just because of the politics of like the games are not not necessarily because like, oh like, you know, maybe not because it's, you know, the guns are bad per se, but it's just the that's just the particular style of, shooting they want to focus on.

00:49:58:17 - 00:50:11:03

Thomas Schrader

And yeah, I also I imagine there's also like what standard like, like what standard a rifle should you do, like okay. Terry. Okay. I've heard that as one reason. Like sure.

00:50:11:03 - 00:50:15:02

Stephen Gutowski

That can be harder for other countries to compete in 3D.

00:50:15:04 - 00:50:30:13

Thomas Schrader

And and also just like, yeah. And also just like I think also just how like because different different countries have different rules, with, you know, how marksmanship, you know, you know, it I, you know, it makes it harder to train specific disciplines. So.

00:50:30:14 - 00:50:52:04

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Yeah. I mean, that's why the only real guns that you see them using in Olympic shooting are shotguns, because those are, while still very restrictive in most of the world, at least possible to go out and get a, skeet shotgun and and practice with the right, you know, with certain licensing, usually in places like England or, or Asia.

00:50:52:04 - 00:51:19:02

Stephen Gutowski

So, you know, there are, I think, political limitations that hold back, other kinds of shooting sports from international competitions like that. But, but so, yeah, you after the service, you got your interest and, now in, not just, you know, home defense or self-defense, but also collecting and, and sports shooting. What made you interested in in gun politics and policy and brought you to a place like the reload?

00:51:19:04 - 00:51:36:09

Thomas Schrader

I mean, I guess, again, as a young kid, I always sort of had an interest in politics. You know, I always overheard, like, you know, my dad listening to Rush Limbaugh on the radio. So it's like, you know, that kind of, like, tight ear wormed into me. And, you know, even in high school, like I did, I did debate.

00:51:36:09 - 00:51:54:13

Thomas Schrader

So, I mean, it wasn't really that great, but, you know, it's just, but, you know, I enjoyed it. so and I guess for, again, politics, like, I guess what made me interested in the reload, I mean, I first, I think the first time I came across here was, I think your first interview with Emma McAllen.

00:51:54:15 - 00:52:15:06

Thomas Schrader

And so he, you know, brought his, you know, brought traction to, I guess, your show, to your magazine. And I was like, okay, I like, you know, I, I like this to go to, like, Steve. I but, you know, for me, it's it's like, you know, it's like, you know, one thing, I guess, you know, one of the things that kind of, you know, I.

00:52:15:07 - 00:52:28:20

Thomas Schrader

Yeah, I think that's with a lot of folk is the like, annoyance with current politics, especially in firearm politics, is is sort of like we need to be, like, inflammatory, all the time. And.

00:52:28:22 - 00:52:30:23

Stephen Gutowski

yeah, it's a lot of red meat, a lot of, a lot.

00:52:30:23 - 00:53:03:11

Thomas Schrader

Of reactionary, action. And I think for the most part, like we need, you know, we need a little more nuance. We need we need to ground. We need to be a bit more grounded. and so, because, you know, if you're too hotheaded, I mean, you, you know, you might, you know, you're probably going to make, you know, you know, make the wrong, wrong people mad or, you know, make or it's like, okay, people are, you know, how often we seen, like, you know, people, you

know, say, oh, this is going, like over a fight like this bill.

00:53:03:11 - 00:53:14:02

Thomas Schrader

And it's like, turns out, no, it's not. And then you lose more credibility or you lose credibility because when they actually do, like, pass, you know, the actual legislation, they're not going to listen.

00:53:14:02 - 00:53:47:16

Stephen Gutowski

So yeah, great point. You know, and that's something I try to focus on here at the reload is, is being as, as, honest as possible, as credible as possible. whenever we're writing about what's going on with legislation and, and I, you know, I think we have an advantage and just, level of information, where I, I live in near DC in Northern Virginia and, and I've been doing this work for, I feel old now, you know, 15 years.

00:53:47:16 - 00:54:17:13

Stephen Gutowski

I'm not that old, but it been doing it for quite a while, and it is my specialty. And that's, that's was something that I always noticed with, like, it's easy to, to look at mainstream media and point out that they often don't understand firearms and, and gun owners and, the function of firearms, even firearms laws. it's I think it's less talked about how gun media rarely understands the hell that really understands the lawmaking process.

00:54:17:15 - 00:54:45:12

Stephen Gutowski

So they're not they're not good at the politics side of it. They're not, as well versed in that stuff. And so that's where I thought we had, and an ability to fill that gap, both those things and being informed about guns and about, gun politics, about how DC works and where, where this stuff goes. So I'm glad that that is, you know, something that that shines through, at least, you know, to some degree.

00:54:45:14 - 00:55:20:00

Thomas Schrader

Yeah. definitely. I totally agree with that. yeah, I mean, I, I think that sometimes I think we, I mean, that's, I think with a lot of groups, you know, you have a lot of people that kind of stick in their bubbles and, you know, it's just like sometimes you just like. Yeah, it's funny when we kind of talk about that, and then we kind of also stay insular in our own bubbles and, you know, it's like, I guess if you want to change stuff, you have to get outside and actually, like interact with people, even if they, you know, disagree, if even if like, okay, you don't, you know, even

00:55:20:00 - 00:55:30:05

Thomas Schrader

if they fundamentally don't agree with your ideology, it's like, well, you have to kind of talk to them. You kind of have to interact with them, you know, or it's like, okay, these people are your neighbors, man.

00:55:30:05 - 00:55:54:11

Stephen Gutowski

So sure, sure. Absolutely. And and, you know, that's what I try to bring that focus to the podcast to having a variety of different voices, different points of view, which, and I don't always agree with all their points of view personally, but that's not what the show is about. And it's not about, trying to yell people's opinions back in their face again, which is what you see in a lot of media across all sorts of ideologies.

00:55:54:13 - 00:56:10:15

Stephen Gutowski

so we try to do things a little bit differently. And I, I'm, I'm glad that that cuts through some of the noise out there, but, and look, I'm glad that you're able to come on and talk to us a little bit and share some of your story and give us, give us a little more insight into this community that makes the reload possible.

00:56:10:17 - 00:56:25:14

Stephen Gutowski

because, again, this is how we found ourselves. This is where our revenue comes from. It's from members, I think that is, you know, I, I do want to grow the publication. I want it to be bigger operation wants to be able to do more in the future. And I'm sure we'll have other revenue streams as that happens.

00:56:25:14 - 00:57:06:08

Stephen Gutowski

But I think this will always be our core because this provides the least amount of conflict of interest. we we are funded by, guys like you and our other members who are interested in what you just laid out there. And that aligns very closely to what our editorial goals are. Right? To present facts, as soberly as possible to take this issue seriously, from a hard news perspective and giving our analysis of what's going on, not our heart, our hottest opinions on what how things should be, but looking at them as they are and trying to give people a better understanding of how this stuff works.

00:57:06:08 - 00:57:15:16

Stephen Gutowski

So I really appreciate you coming on and talking with us, and just giving us a bit of your time and explaining a little bit more about yourself.

00:57:15:18 - 00:57:17:11 Thomas Schrader

my pleasure man.

00:57:17:13 - 00:57:34:22

Stephen Gutowski

Awesome. Well, that's all we've got for this week. If you want to be a Relo member, you can of course, head over to the reload.com and buy a membership today. You'll get exclusive access to hundreds of pieces of analysis and reporting you won't find anywhere else. And you'll have the opportunity to get on the show just like this.

00:57:34:22 - 00:57:47:08

Stephen Gutowski

And you'll get to share that early. all of our interview podcast members have access to the day before they go public. so head on over and check it out. That's all we've got for you. Thanks, guys.