

TEXAS AFFIRMS HUNTING AS AN ESSENTIAL ACTIVITY

By Heidi Rao



Texas, once again, demonstrates itself as a gun-friendly and hunting-friendly state. While many “Blue” states are attacking our 2nd Amendment Rights, Texas Governor Greg Abbott declares gun rights and hunting rights as essential to the people of Texas.

On March 31,2020, Governor Abbott signed Executive Order No. GA-14 protecting Texas citizens’ right to engage in hunting during the “COVID-19 disaster.” This further solidifies hunting as part of our lives, a way of life, and most importantly, part of our Texas Heritage. This Executive Order does not just imply hunting as an essential part of Texans’ lives but is actually spelled out

in the order. Page 3, paragraph 3 states - ***“This executive order does not prohibit people from accessing essential services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID- 19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.”***

Executive Order No. GA-14 reaffirms and protects Texans’ 2nd Amendment Rights. Page 2, paragraph 10 of this order states that “Essential Services shall consist of everything listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0” Under the Homeland Security guidelines of Essential Services, page 4, gun and ammunition manufacturers, dealers, and gun ranges are named under sub-heading and bullet point:

LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS

• ***Workers supporting the operation of firearm or ammunition product manufacturers, retailers, importers, distributors, and shooting ranges.***

Governor Abbott is serious when it comes to protecting the Rights of Texans from any local official, including Mayor, City Manager, or City Council against over-reach or abuse of power. In other words, Executive Order No. GA-14 prevents any Texas progressive official who tries to suspend, abridge, or deny 2nd Amendment Rights from implementing their plans. Page 3, paragraph 6 of this order states - ***This executive order shall supersede any conflicting order issued by local officials in response to the COVID-19 disaster, but only to the extent that such a local***

order restricts essential services allowed by this executive order or allows gatherings prohibited by this executive order.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott not only affirms that Texas is pro-gun and pro-hunting, but he reaffirms what we Texans have always known. That is to say that Texas is a great place to live, Texas is a great 2nd Amendment state, and Texans love to hunt!