Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 6, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Barr:

Over the last couple months, peaceful protests have spiraled into deadly and destructive riots. Local leaders have tolerated violent mobs and have rendered police powerless to protect their communities and residents. Far too many innocent citizens have lost their lives and had their businesses and private property destroyed.

Recently, Mark and Patricia McCloskey in St. Louis, Missouri, exercised their Second Amendment right in self-defense, as they were threatened by violent protestors who made menacing remarks and trespassed on their private property.

Our constitution is clear, "…the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Our Founders recognized and memorialized this natural human right, the fundamental freedom of self-defense. The State of Missouri goes even further and gives "...the right of every citizen to keep and bear arms, ammunition, and accessories typical to the normal function of such arms, in defense of his home, person, family and property..."

Sadly, these God-given rights bestowed upon all citizens of the United States were trampled by the McCloskey's very own local officials, who are responsible for upholding the law. Their firearms were confiscated, and circuit attorney Kim Gardner charged them with felonies, carrying penalties of up to four years in prison. This decision is not only an abuse of power, it is a reckless assault on all citizen's right to bear arms. As police are being told to stand down by feckless and fearful politicians, upstanding citizens across the nation have watched their neighborhoods and communities burn to the ground.

Criminals should live in fear of prosecution, not innocent Americans defending themselves, their families, and their property. The prosecuting attorney's actions appear to be driven more by an antigun, not anticrime, agenda. This is a devastatingly chilling signal to the more than 2.5 million Americans who recently bought guns for the first time to protect themselves and their families against the unmitigated lawlessness sweeping across our land.

We urge you and the Department of Justice to investigate Ms. Gardner's actions, and the actions of every rogue prosecutor who fails to uphold the rule of law and secure the rights of our citizens. Americans deserve to know exactly how public officials are abusing their power by

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harassing individuals exercising their rights and failing to enforce laws against trespassing, destruction, and violations of private property.

Sincerely,

Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress

Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Jody B. Hice
Member of Congress

Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

Doug Collins
Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Tom Rice
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