

American Knife & Tool Institute
Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting

June 21, 2004

A Teleconference Executive Committee meeting of the American Knife and Tool Institute was called to order on Monday, June 21, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. EDT by AKTI Legislative Committee Chair CJ Buck. Other Regents present: A. G. Russell (A. G. Russell Knives), Al Pendray (Knifemakers Guild), AKTI Vice President/Secretary Mike Jones (for Chad Vincent – Gerber). Others present: Bob Miller (Pro-Cut), David Kowalski, AKTI Communications Coordinator and Jan Billeb, AKTI Executive Director.

The purpose of the teleconference was to discuss the recently introduced Michigan law (House 5797, Senate 1296) to amend Michigan Penal Code 1931 section 328.

The wording of concern is: Sec. 224 (1) A person shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, or possess any of the following:

(f) Any sharp-edged, multibladed device, capable of being carried on the person, with blades that are, or can be, locked into place for use as a weapon.

Representative Smith and Senator Thomas introduced these bills to address the concerns of the Detroit Police Department that “exotic” knives with blade lengths under 3 inches were being sold by a gas station to high school kids.

A. G. Russell explained that Senator Cropsey as Chair of the Senate Judicial Committee was not supportive of the wording (primarily because he hadn't realized knives such as Swiss Army knives would be affected). Russell suggested that AKTI members need to address their concerns to Senator Cropsey and other appropriate contacts and emphasize that this legislation would outlaw locking mechanisms on knives (designed as a safety device) and outlaw many types of knives (including Swiss Army knives).

CJ Buck reported that Attorney Dan Lawson is working on a draft of a standard letter that will be forwarded to David Kowalski and AKTI members who will be encouraged to send it to Michigan senators and representatives. Dan Lawson has also had contact with Chris Conte, staff attorney at the NRA-ILA, about a possible lobbyist in Michigan in case it becomes necessary to use their services. CJ Buck will also make contact with Chris Conte.

David Kowalski will pull information together about the appropriate Michigan lawmakers (on Senate and House committees scheduled to review the bills) to contact. He will also contact NSSF staff attorney Larry Keene about other possible sympathetic Michigan contacts, as well as research Michigan knife industry contacts to help carry the AKTI message to state lawmakers.

It was agreed to wait on authorizing a budget or hiring a lobbyist until after other efforts were tried.

A follow-up teleconference call was scheduled for Tuesday, June 29th at 4 p.m. Eastern time.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Billeb

AKTI Executive Director