



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

DEC 27 2017

The Honorable  
Benjamin Cardin  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your letter dated September 15 outlining your concerns regarding proposed changes to Categories I, II, and III of the U.S. Munitions List (USML) and the considered transfer of small arms, light weapons, and associated equipment and ammunition to the Commerce Control List (CCL) regulated by the Department of Commerce.

We appreciate your support for the Export Control Reform Initiative efforts, which have rationalized and streamlined the United States Munitions List (USML) and made it easier for American small businesses to understand the relevant rules and successfully compete in the global marketplace.

The Department of State recognizes the sensitivities and foreign policy implications associated with the sale and export of small arms, light weapons, and associated equipment and ammunition. The deliberative interagency review process to consider potential changes to the treatment of Categories I, II, and III is identical to the approach that was applied to prior reviews of other USML categories.

The proposed rules are currently being reviewed by the interagency, led by the Office of Management and Budget, and will then be published in the Federal Register with a request for public comment. Additionally, no significant changes to the content of Categories I, II, and III will occur until any final rules moving such items from the USML to the Commerce Control List are published. State will notify Congress in accordance with section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and offer additional briefings on the matter once the final rules have been approved by the interagency.

We refer you to the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) for more information regarding its implementation of export controls on firearms that may become subject to its jurisdiction. BIS may be reached at 202-482-2721.

We hope this information is useful. Please let us know if we can be helpful on this or any other issue now or in the future.

Sincerely,

*May K. Waten*

Charles S. Faulkner  
Bureau of Legislative Affairs