The Honorable James Risch  
483 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  

Dear Senator Risch:  

We are writing in support of the Fix NICS Act of 2017, S. 2135. This bipartisan bill would strengthen current processes and operations of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Vista Outdoor, and our leading brands, including Lewiston based CCI and Speer, supports the legislation and encourages swift consideration and passage in the United States Senate.

The National Instant Criminal Background Check System began processing retail point-of-purchase background checks on November 30, 1998. Over that period of time, more than 260 million NICS background checks have been conducted.

Background checks are only as strong as the records in the database. The Fix NICS Act would increase records-sharing at the federal and state levels in at least two needed ways. First, the bill would penalize federal agencies who fail to properly report relevant records. This provision would apply to both civilian and military entities within the federal government. The bill would also provide funding to support federal compliance. Second, the Fix NICS Act would incentivize states to improve records reporting to the NICS database. This is a critically important provision as many states have submitted just a fraction of the required records. New Hampshire has submitted 51 records while Wyoming has submitted just four (Pennsylvania has submitted more than 790,000 records by comparison).

Again, thank you for considering the Fix NICS Act. Similar legislation in the House of Representatives is already moving through the process with recent passage of the House Judiciary Committee. The firearm industry has been an early and consistent supporter of background checks and together with the National Shooting Sports Foundation, we support Congressional efforts to Fix NICS.

Sincerely,

Jason Vanderbrink  
President, Ammunition  
CCI, Speer, Federal Premium

Marty Zacha  
VP, Ammunition  
CCI, Speer, Federal Premium

Bill Mackleit  
Senior Director, Operations  
CCI, Speer, Federal Premium