

Timeline Recap of AKTI Opposition to U.S. Customs' Effort

We thank thousands of AKTI individual members and representatives from every segment of the sporting knife industry for supporting hundreds of actions inspired and driven by AKTI in this Customs fight. If you go to our website, you can link at all the significant documents identified here. It is also very important that you become an AKTI Grassroots Supporter so you are ready to help us if we have action in the House of Representatives after Labor Day.

The proposal by U.S. Customs to ban the importation of assisted-opening knives (and re-classify them as switchblades ... as well as all folding knives that can be opened by inertia, we fear) has generated a massive response in a very short time from AKTI and AKTI members across all levels of the sporting knife industry. With your help, AKTI can and is fighting this proposed new U.S. Customs re-definition of switchblades that would include all folding knives, impact interstate commerce and make defacto criminals of millions of knife

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Customs Fight NOT Over

The fight over assisted-openers and all folding knives is not over.

AKTI's Washington, D.C. lobbyist group, assisted by other firearms and knife organizations, has gotten over one significant hurdle. A group of powerful U.S. Senators of both parties agreed, along with U.S. Customs, to accept the language of amendment 1447 to H.R. 2892 (Homeland Security Appropriations Bill).

That amendment essentially adopted the switchblade exception language which AKTI sponsored in Texas and that was signed by Texas Governor Perry on June 18. U.S. Customs agreed to add a fifth clause to section 1244 of the Federal Switchblade Act that exempts **“a knife that contains a spring, detent, or other mechanism designed to create a bias toward closure of the blade and that requires exertion applied to the blade by hand, wrist or arm to overcome the bias toward closure to assist in opening the knife.”**

But here's the rest of the story. Now the bill must go back to the House and pass several committee tests, including preserving the Senate language, and the president would have to sign the bill. If the House rejects our amendment, AKTI and its allies will have to start over again. That means finding another bill, getting Senate and House acceptance and hoping for passage before the 2009 session ends.

AKTI continues to do the real work with lawmakers, one on one in their home offices, and their key staff in D.C. during the August recess. We're working for a genuine, long-term legislative solution that will bind U.S. Customs to administering the law, not making it. In the meantime, we had contact from an importer in mid-July who had 22 cases of assisted-openers seized and held by U.S. Customs. So the fight is truly not over.

Please stay ready to take action again shortly after Labor Day. If AKTI finally gets conference committee acceptance in the House for amending H.R. 2892, we will need you to contact your U.S. Representatives to enlist their support.

Your financial support of AKTI is also vital. Our legal and legislative bills are substantial and they continue.

It is also critical to become an AKTI Grassroots Supporter to ensure you get hot, accurate news from AKTI. You can do so for free at www.akti.org.

If you hear or read rumor or speculation from other sources on this subject, go to the AKTI website. We will issue statements only when we can responsibly verify the facts.

Texas Passes H 4456 Exempts Folders & Assisted-Openers

Texas Governor Perry signed AKTI's bill H 4456 on June 18, 2009. It exempts virtually all folders and assisted-openers from the state's switchblade statute at Texas Penal Code section 46.01 (11). The Texas statute closely follows the federal statute. As AKTI has fought the U.S. Customs attempt to broadly re-define switchblades, unanimous acceptance of AKTI's position by Texas lawmakers was critical in getting acceptance of nearly identical language by federal lawmakers.

Effective September 1, 2009, a **switchblade in Texas “... does not include a knife that has a spring, detent or other mechanism designed to create a bias toward closure and that requires exertion applied to the blade by hand, wrist or arm to overcome resistance and open the knife.”**

AKTI thanks Texas Senator Deuell and Representative Driver for sponsoring companion bills. Thanks also to outstanding support from across the state and nation from countless individual knife owners and every segment of the sporting knife industry.

Customs Timeline

owners. The threat was forcefully brought to our attention at the 2009 Blade Show (5/27-31) only because an AKTI member's law firm received notice a few days earlier.

Here's the timeline from AKTI's perspective* (includes only significant events ... in reverse chronological order ... we can publicly report) that brings us to August 15:

(You can view all articles referenced in **blue type** at www.akti.org)

- * **URGENT NEWS** ... (7/15) AKTI working in U.S. House of Representatives to get language agreement on Senate amendment to H.R. 2892. When we have specific action plan, we will alert you here and via Grassroots Supporter email.
- * **RECENT NEWS** ... Full U.S. Senate votes (7/9) to pass Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill (H.R. 2892) by margin of 84-6 that contains Amendment 1447 co-sponsored by 20 Senators of both parties. Caution: This bill is not law; it needs to go through a House/Senate conference, and then be signed by the President. Senators who co-sponsored Amendment 1447 used AKTI's Texas switchblade exemption language (unanimously approved by Texas lawmakers and signed by Governor Perry on 6/18/09). AKTI has prepared a full text of the **Federal Switchblade Act showing the insertion of proposed exception (5) in Section 1244** (which was agreed to by U.S. Customs on 7/9 in session with several Senators prior to drafting of **Amendment 1447**). If this language was also adopted by House, AKTI attorneys agree it would protect assisted-openers and one-hand-openers with a bias toward closure from being declared switchblades by U.S. Customs.
- * AKTI reaches agreement on 6/30 with NRA, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and KnifeRights on draft language for Senate initiative to block Customs funding for enforcement of proposal. Language used was **AKTI's successful Texas amendment** to their switchblade statute that passed unanimously and was **signed by Gov. Perry on 6/18**. AKTI's advocacy firm attempting to get Senate sponsors for presentation on 7/8.
- * AKTI member company executives hold DC meetings on 6/25 (arranged by AKTI's advocacy firm) with representatives of 15 Senators and Representatives. Attendees included: Rod Bremer, president of CRKT; Mike Manrose, VP of Meyerco; John Belniak, SOG Knives, and Morgan Taylor and Brian Boyd of Taylor Brands.
- * AKTI's advocacy firm consults on a draft amendment supported by ID Rep. Minnick and OH Rep. Latta that would have stopped funding for Customs proposed action. Action blocked by chair of House Rules Committee on 6/23.
- * **Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus letter** (6/22) to Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano shows bi-partisan support from 77 Congressional members.
- * After consulting with AKTI, **Safari Club International sends a protest letter** to Secretary Napolitano (6/19).
- * AKTI'S advocacy firm generates letter to Secretary Napolitano from **18 sportsmen, hunting, fishing and shooting groups** that include NRA, NSSF, the Safari Club and 15 others (6/19). Direct **NRA letter** also re-states their opposition to Customs' proposed revocation.
- * After consulting with AKTI, the International Assn of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)

Join AKTI and You Could WIN TWICE

Kershaw Knives offers this one-of-a-kind SpecBump for
a members-only drawing!

Join AKTI or renew your membership between May 15 and
December 31, 2009 and your name is entered in the
drawing (held January 1, 2010).

Become a member or
renew at
www.akti.org



Your membership allows AKTI to
hire lobbyists for our successful
state program.



Knife is a one-of-a-kind assisted-opener with special
steel configuration.

Blade Steels.....	ATS-34/ZDP-189 stainless steel
Handle.....	Polished G-10
Lock.....	Stud-Lock®
Liner.....	410 stainless steel
Blade.....	3-5/8 in. (9.2cm)
Handle.....	4-15/16 in. (12.5cm)
Weight.....	5.4 oz.
Includes fleece lined zipper pouch.	

Courts in at least four states and Canada
have ruled that assisted-openers are not
switchblades.

Assisted-openers do not have a button on the handle (as
shown on this cutaway view) and they have a bias toward
closure. *Photos courtesy of Kershaw Knives.*

Join AKTI Today!

Help us win the fight for your knife rights!

AKTI means AKTIon!

AKTI has saved
more than **36 million**
knife owners!

- 2009** AKTI bill protects nearly 11 million Texas knife owners.
- 2009** AKTI response tables anti-folder bill, saves 2 million Hawaii knife owners.
- 2008** AKTI bill saves 2 million South Carolina knife owners.
- 2007** AKTI bill saves 1 million Arkansas knife owners.
- 2004** AKTI opposed New York City retailer knife busts.
- 2003** AKTI bill saves 6 million Floridians; clarifies “ballistic knife” definition.
- 2002** AKTI saves 2 million Boston knife owners and visitors; opposes 2-1/2” blade-length standard.
- 2000** AKTI saves 12 million Californians; 653k exempts one-hand openers in switchblade statute.

Become a “Grassroots Supporter”

AKTI victories proved YOUR EMAILS and letters to lawmakers ARE POWERFUL.

That’s why we need you as a free “Grassroots Supporter.”

Help us save your individual knife rights!

Sign up today! Go to www.akti.org

We need you as a "Grassroots" Supporter !!!

Your emails and letters to lawmakers are powerful !!!

AKTI's position is that law-abiding citizens should be able to carry knives without threat of arrest or the arbitrary enforcement of vague laws. If they are carrying a knife with the intent to harm another or actually use a knife to commit a crime, they should be prosecuted. Knives are tools; people use knives properly or improperly.

AKTI has fought for the knife rights of individual knife owners across the country for nearly 12 years. AKTI bills produced huge legislative victories that have removed legal threats for at least 36 million knife owners in California, Florida, Arkansas, South Carolina and Texas. AKTI intervention in Hawaii in 2009 stopped an attack on all folders. AKTI's fight against the 2009 U.S. Customs proposal to broadly re-define all folders as switchblades continues.

These significant victories don't happen without a strong lobbying effort and key phone calls, emails and letters from knife owners. That's why we need your help to continue AKTI's amazing success story.

We need you to become a "Grassroots" Supporter willing to contact lawmakers via email for important committee and legislative votes.

Lawmakers respond to emails. And because speed of response is often critical, we'll communicate with you the same way. Of course, we will also encourage you to phone or mail letters to your lawmakers so your voice can be heard.

As an AKTI Grassroots Supporter, you will receive ...

- 1) **Regular electronic updates** on knife rights issues across the country.
- 2) **Requests to contact lawmakers** on knife issues important to knife owners in various states and at the federal level.
- 3) **AKTI emails sent to you clearly marked as AKTI Updates** so you can quickly spot them, route them through your spam filters, save them and act on them.

Don't let this day go by without joining this powerful group that will change knife laws.

You also have our promise not to sell your name or email address to any outside marketers or to share our list with any other entity.

There is no fee to become a Grassroots Supporter, but your donations are always appreciated.

**Your voice will be heard!
You will make a difference!**

Join on the AKTI Website

Go to ... www.akti.org

Click on Join Today at the top of the home page. Then scroll down to "Grassroots Supporter" under Membership Categories. When you click on Sign Up Today at the end of the description, you will be connected to an online form where you can provide information about yourself. Click Submit.

Now you're ready to start receiving electronic news from AKTI! Now you're ready to help us fight for your knife rights!

YES, I will join AKTI and help support responsible knife use!

Give generously! Your membership dues help...

- 1) **Fight for your knife rights...as we did in California, Florida, Arkansas, South Carolina, Hawaii, Texas and against U.S. Customs...wherever AKTI is needed!**
- 2) **Communicate regularly with knife users and the editors of more than 50 outdoor publications!**
- 3) **Help lawmakers and law enforcement with solid information...such as the knife measuring protocol.**

Consider supporting AKTI with a Life Membership.

Name _____

Company _____ Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ E-Mail _____

- Check here if this is a renewal.
- Platinum Associate - \$1,000/yr
- Gold Associate - \$500/yr
- Silver Associate - \$200/yr
- Annual Ambassador Member (Individual) - \$35/yr
- Life Membership (Individual) - \$750
- Premier Member - \$2,000/yr (Voting Membership)
- Retailer Associate - \$100/yr

I support AKTI with an additional contribution of \$ _____

Check # _____ Enclosed for \$ _____

Visa/Mastercard Charge: _____ Exp: _____

Signed _____ Date: _____

Check here if you prefer to keep your information confidential.

Note: Since the American Knife and Tool Institute, Inc. has filed as a 501(c)(6) not for profit tax status, dues may be deductible as a business expense, but not as a charitable contribution.

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and a long-time AKTI member, sends letter of protest to Secretary Napolitano (6/18).

- * AKTI's publicity and calls to action (supported by NRA, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and KnifeRights) generate more than an estimated 5,200 responses to Customs' proposal. One retailer reported to us that at least 1,000 of his customers signed letters in his store that were boxed and sent to Customs (but Customs counted as only one letter). U.S. Customs is still attempting to sort and catalog responses.
- * Law firm produces **AKTI's 38-page response to Customs** and delivers on 6/19. Several other companies and organizations send direct response letters to Customs.
- * Contingent representing Oregon manufacturers goes to DC on 6/17-18 to discuss Customs action with lawmakers. They were: AKTI Board of Regents Jason Landmark, president of Gerber, and Les deAsis, president of Benchmade; and Kevin Keegan, Gerber/Fiskars legal VP.
- * AKTI's Communication Coordinator appears on five radio broadcasts between 6/8 and 6/18 to discuss implications of proposed Customs ruling. Programs ranged from Lars Larson's national program to Victoria Taft's Portland, OR program to NRANews.com. Material provided for June 29 Congressional Quarterly article (positively rendered) on the proposed Customs action, as well as for several other publications and talk show guests.
- * AKTI's request for an extension of the comment period was denied by Customs (6/10).
- * Les de Asis, AKTI Board of Regent founding member, the president of Benchmade, organizes an informational meeting for the nine major manufacturers in Oregon (6/10).
- * AKTI hires nationally recognized advocacy firm in Washington, D.C. to present issues to U.S. Customs and federal lawmakers (6/10).
- * Thanks to CutleryNewsJournal, **AKTI's YouTube video** produced at Blade Show has been seen by more than 7,860 people since June 9.
- * AKTI sends out the first of several grassroots calls to action, providing measured and responsible **sample letters to Customs and legislators**. (6/5).
- * AKTI produces **Knife User Data** sheet showing there are at least 35.6 million individual owners of folding knives in U.S. that could be adversely affected by the broad new switchblade definition proposed by U.S. Customs. Other organizations and news outlets recognize the integrity of AKTI data and quote it widely (6/1). We also issue **AKTI Talking Points** to clarify the threat from U.S. Customs.
- * AKTI hires nationally renowned law firm to produce response to U.S. Customs (6/1).
- * AKTI's Board of Regents gives presentation with a call for action and financial support from the entire knife community at the Blade Show Award Banquet (5/30).
- * AKTI calls special meeting of industry companies at 2009 Blade Show (5/29) to discuss industry response. **AKTI fears that broad new switchblade language would outlaw all folding knives** and make them illegal under various interstate commerce provisions that would flow from Customs definitions. Customs

is the only federal law enforcement agency currently enforcing the Federal Switchblade Act of 1958.

* **U.S. Customs publishes proposed revocation on May 21, 2009** of four ruling letters they issued between 2005 and 2008 to three companies to import assisted-opening knives because they were NOT switchblades. Customs now changes its mind and gives affected companies and sporting knife industry until June 21, 2009 to respond to proposal.

For further information or to make a pledge of financial support, contact ...

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** Recognizing its responsibility to communicate clearly to both the law enforcement communities and individual and corporate members, AKTI does not publicly discuss sensitive issues that are in process. Furthermore, we do not attempt to claim credit for successes that we did not inspire or direct; we do not encourage or publish inflammatory political diatribe; nor do we publicly respond to misrepresentations about AKTI. Only AKTI speaks for AKTI.*

AKTI stands on its 12-year unmatched record of action on behalf of U.S. knife owners. We have successfully introduced legislation in five states (California, Florida, Arkansas, South Carolina and Texas, as well as shut down a January 2009 proposal in Hawaii in seven days) that have all passed and have made life safer for law-abiding citizens and knife-owning visitors to those states. We conservatively estimate that AKTI's legislative successes have contributed to the legal safety of more than 36 million knife owners.

AKTI.org

Be sure check out these recently added features:

*Defense Attorneys

List of defense attorneys who will consult with your attorney on knife cases.

*Expert Witnesses

When a case goes to trial, your defense attorney may need an expert witness. Here is a list of knife experts who may be qualified to testify.

*Knives Save Lives!

Files of manufacturers are filled with letters from users who had a knife they could reach when their life was in danger. Here are their stories!

AKTI has effectively worked with lawmakers to pass pro-knife bills in California, Florida, Arkansas, South Carolina and Texas. AKTI's fight against the U.S. Customs' proposal to broadly re-define all folders as switchblades continues on behalf of all knife owners.

AKTI has protected responsible knife owners since 1998.



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Forums: go to www.akti.org; click on News & Info or go to www.bladeforums.com or www.knifeforums.com

Compliments of...

Customs Fight NOT Over !!!

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