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For Immediate Release

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Last Chance for Lawmakers to Stand Up to the Shooting Sports Association's Anti-Government Agenda

Not willing to settle for passing bills to establish "Shoot to Kill" in Montana ([House Bill 228](#)) and challenge the Interstate Commerce Clause ([House Bill 246](#)), Gary Marbut and his Montana Shooting Sports Association are making a second attempt to pass a resolution that masquerades as "states' rights."

"During legislative sessions, with the spotlight shining on him, Gary Marbut professes to be an advocate for public safety, hunters, and shooting sport interests," said Travis McAdam of the Montana Human Rights Network. "In reality, he fits squarely within the anti-government movement." See **"Gary Marbut: Public Policy Expert or Anti-Government Activist?"** below for more information.

On Wednesday, the House Judiciary Committee will hear Gallatin Gateway Rep. Michael More's [House Resolution 3](#), a major part of Marbut's legislative agenda. It is part of national right-wing campaign referred to as the "New State Sovereignty Movement," and comparable legislation has been introduced in other states. Earlier this session, Rep. More sponsored a similar resolution ([HJ 26](#)) that failed to get out of House Judiciary both through a committee vote and through a blast motion.

"House Resolution 3 is full of the anti-government movement's favorite themes," says McAdam. "The resolution makes veiled references to secession, one of Marbut's longtime passions, and also declares the income tax unconstitutional. When you add in its language on states' rights, it reads like a militia recruiting tool from the 1990s. Lawmakers should stand up to Marbut and his anti-government ideology and again vote down this resolution."

The Human Rights Network is concerned that lawmakers apparently think Marbut's primary interest is public safety and hunting, when it is clear that he and other members of the gun lobby are focused on spreading right-wing ideology and securing political power for right-wing entities.

The Human Rights Network points to how the gun lobby spends its political money. Since the campaign cycle of 1992, approximately 90% of the funds distributed by groups like the

NRA, Gun Owners of America, and the National Shooting Sports Foundation, have gone to Republicans. By way of comparison, less than 8% of expenditures went to Democrats.

During the 2008 campaign cycle, the Montana Shooting Sports Association endorsed 86 legislative candidates. Only one of those candidates, Rep. Deb Kottel (D-Great Falls), was a Democrat. For more on the gun lobby, see the Network's report [Shooting for Respectability](#).

"Marbut and the gun lobby use firearm issues to clobber their political enemies and make them scared for their political lives. Based on what has happened so far this session, Marbut has played a majority of lawmakers like a piano," McAdam said. "The reality is that the bills he creates contain hardcore anti-government themes. By succumbing to the gun lobby, Montana lawmakers are turning militia ideology into public policy."

Gary Marbut: Public Policy Expert or Anti-Government Activist?

Gary Marbut has offered organizing tips to the Militia of Montana. The Militia of Montana has circulated membership and fundraising appeals for the Montana Shooting Sports Association, along with promoting weapons training classes offered by Marbut's group.[i]

Gary Marbut has frequently supported militia-based conspiracy theories relating to one-world government. A couple of examples:

- o In one article published by the Militia of Montana, Marbut wrote that Americans' freedoms were being reduced to "ease our assimilation into the global governance of the New World Order." [ii]
- o In an e-mail he distributed, Marbut warned that trade agreements were "all moves towards the New World Order and the coveted global government." [iii]

Gary Marbut has asked candidates running for office if they endorse a view popularized by the Posse Comitatus, a white supremacist and anti-Semitic group. Marbut questionnaires ask if the candidate views the "county sheriff [as] the top law enforcement official in the county" and believes that federal officers would have to ask the sheriff's permission before taking action. He has used various versions of this question from 1992 through 2008. [iv] This idea of sheriff supremacy originated with the Posse Comitatus, which viewed the sheriff as the highest legitimate law officer in the land. [v] Marbut has also drafted legislation to implement this policy, which can be found under "Good Bills" on one of his websites. [vi] The bill has been introduced during previous legislative sessions.

Gary Marbut supports a favorite of the anti-government movement, the Fully Informed Jury Association. It teaches that juries can render judgments based solely on their conscience and can ignore laws they don't like. In essence, it tells jurors they can ignore the law and set defendants free regardless of evidence proving guilt. The Jury Association has supported white supremacists and militia leaders. [vii] Marbut's Montana Shooting Sports Association contains a link to the Jury Association's website, while another of his websites contains a bill drafted to implement "Fully Informed Juries." [viii]

In 1994, Gary Marbut was so incensed by passage of the ban on assault rifles that he proposed that Montana secede from the union. He drew up a plan to repeal Article I of the Montana Constitution. When Republicans took control of Congress in November 1994, he withdrew his plan. However, he said the plan was still on his computer, and he has not

ruled out re-introducing it.[ix] In 2008, he got Secretary of State Brad Johnson to imply that Montana should secede from the union, if the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that gun ownership wasn't an individual right under the Second Amendment.[x]

In 1996, days before the General Election, Gary Marbut placed an advertisement in three of the state's daily newspapers protesting U.S. Sen. Max Baucus' support of gun control legislation. The ad featured a large black and white drawing of a uniformed Adolph Hitler giving a stiff-armed Nazi salute. "ALL IN FAVOR OF 'GUN CONTROL' RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND," appeared in large letters below the drawing. At the bottom of the advertisement were the words, "BAN BAUCUS, NOT GUNS."[xi]

In 2000, the *Billings Gazette* discovered 100 violent felons who bought hunting permits in 1999. This meant that they probably had access to rifles, shotguns, or archery equipment. Law enforcement responded by saying there should be, at least, a cooling off period before violent criminals could own weapons. Gary Marbut, on the other hand, said, "When people get out of Deer Lodge, there ought to be a gun shop right outside the gate so people can buy a weapon to hunt or protect themselves with. If they abuse that right, they should be taken out back and shot."[xii]

Selected quotes from Gary Marbut's writings:

- o Gun control advocates are "quite willing to pour out the blood of slain people onto to the alter [sic] of their social agenda." --*Keep Citizens Rapeable*, distributed by the Militia of Montana.[xiii]
- o Legislation keeping firearms away from schools was "developed by smarter and evil people who I believe fully intended to become slavemasters." - Guest editorial published by *The Jubilee*, a white supremacist tabloid.[xiv] Marbut has claimed he does not know how his piece ended up in *The Jubilee*.[xv]

The Network's report *Shooting for Respectability* clearly documents more of Gary Marbut's connections to the radical right-wing. The report can be accessed [here](#).

Sources:

- [i] Militia of Montana, E-mail Alerts, Jan. 3, 2000; Nov. 23, 1999; March 20, 2002; Nov. 15, 2001; Feb. 21, 2003; and April 9, 2003.
- [ii] Militia of Montana, *Taking Aim*, April 1998.
- [iii] Montana Shooting Sports Association, e-mail, April 17, 2000.
- [iv] Missoulian, Sept. 18, 1992; Montana Shooting Sports Association, 2008 Sheriff Candidate Questionnaire.
- [v] James Ridgeway, *Blood in the Face*, 1995, pp. 127-159.
- [vi] <http://progunleaders.org/GoodBills>.
- [vii] *Independent Record*, Aug. 23, 1999; Fully Informed Jury Association, *FII Activist*, Winter/Spring 1996.
- [viii] Montana Shooting Sports Association, <http://www.mtssa.org>; <http://progunleaders.org/GoodBills>.
- [ix] *Ravalli Republic*, Sept. 6, 1994; *Missoula Independent*, June 1, 2000.
- [x] Montana Secretary of State, press release, Feb. 19, 2008; <http://progunleaders.org/Heller/argument.html>.
- [xi] *Independent Record*, Nov. 3, 1996.
- [xii] *Billings Gazette*, May 15, 2000.
- [xiii] Militia of Montana, E-Mail Alert, Feb. 3, 2000.
- [xiv] *The Jubilee*, January/February 2000.
- [xv] Gary Marbut, letter to Montana Human Rights Network, May 7, 2002.

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