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[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Your Company]

[Street Address, City, State ZIP]

May 14, 2026

[Opposing Counsel Name]

[Firm Name]

[Address]

Re: U.S. Patent No. 9151557 — Response to Assertion of Infringement

Dear Counsel,

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence asserting infringement of U.S. Patent No. 9151557 (the "9151557 Patent"). After preliminary review, we have substantial concerns about the validity, enforceability, and scope of the asserted claims, summarized below. We reserve all rights and defenses.

1. Subject Patent — Summary

Analysis of U.S. Patent 9,151,557

Title: Automatic sear assembly for a rifle

Assignee: Sig Sauer Inc.

Inventors: William C. Daley, Jr.

Filing Date: May 13, 2014

Issue Date: October 6, 2015

Abstract:

An automatic sear assembly for providing a large-bore rifle with full-automatic firing and/or burst firing capabilities is disclosed. In accordance with some embodiments, the disclosed assembly includes an automatic sear operatively configured with a sear lever which is provided with bidirectional articulation for selectively imparting torque on the automatic sear to cause tripping thereof. For example, the disclosed assembly can be configured such that...

2. Validity Concerns under 35 U.S.C. § 102 — Prior Art

We have identified prior-art references that, in our preliminary view, anticipate one or more asserted claims of the 9151557 Patent:

Analysis of Prior Art for U.S. Patent No. 9,151,557

An analysis of the prior art cited during the prosecution of U.S. Patent No. 9,151,557, "Automatic sear assembly for a rifle," reveals several key patents that define the technological landscape at the time of the invention. This analysis examines the most relevant of these, detailing their contributions and assessing their potential to anticipate the claims of the '557 patent.

Key Prior Art and Potential Anticipation

The following prior art references were considered significant during the examination of the '557 patent. Each is evaluated for its relevance to the independent claims of the '557 patent.

1. U.S. Patent No. 4,441,403 (Schillstrom)

- Publication Date: April 10, 1984
- Filing Date: June 1, 1981
- Title: Sear for automatic firearm
- Brief Description: Schillstrom discloses an automatic sear for a firearm that includes a body with a bore for a pivot pin and an actuating arm. The sear is designed to be tripped by the bolt carrier of the firearm to effect automatic fire.
- Potential Anticipation: This patent is broadly...

3. Obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Independent of § 102, we believe the asserted claims are obvious in view of combinations of prior art that a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine:

Obviousness Analysis of U.S. Patent No. 9,151,557

Date of Analysis: May 10, 2026

Patent at Issue: U.S. Patent No. 9,151,557, "Automatic sear assembly for a rifle" (hereinafter '557 patent)

Standard of Obviousness: Under 35 U.S.C. § 103, an invention is unpatentable if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art (PHOSITA).

Summary of '557 Patent's Claims:

The '557 patent describes an automatic sear assembly that enables selective-fire (including full-auto and burst modes) in large-bore rifles. The core of the invention, as detailed in the independent claims (1, 16, and 20), revolves around an automatic sear and a separate sear lever that are co-axially mounted and interact with a spring system. This arrangement allows the sear lever, when actuated by the bolt carrier, to either rotate independently of the sear (during the bolt's rearward travel) or to engage and trip the sear (during the bolt's...

4. Request

In light of the foregoing, we request that your client (i) provide a detailed claim chart identifying each accused product or service and mapping every limitation of each asserted claim, (ii) identify any prior art known to your client, including any references cited during prosecution or reexamination, and (iii) substantiate the basis for any damages or licensing demand. We are prepared to discuss the matter further once we have received and reviewed the foregoing.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

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