

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

Case No.: 21-cr-24-wmc

STEPHEN J. ROBESON,

Defendant.

PLEA AGREEMENT

1. This is the proposed plea agreement between the defendant and the United States in the above-captioned case.

2. **PLEA AND PENALTIES:** The defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count 1 of the indictment. This count charges a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1), which carries maximum penalties of ten years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, a three-year period of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment. In addition to these maximum penalties, any violation of a supervised release term could lead to an additional imprisonment term pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583. The defendant agrees to pay the special assessment at or before sentencing and understands that the Court will enter an order requiring the immediate special assessment payment under 18 U.S.C. § 3013. In an appropriate case, the defendant could be held in contempt of court and receive an additional sentence for failing to pay the special assessment.

3. **RIGHTS WAIVED BY PLEADING GUILTY:** The defendant acknowledges by pleading guilty, that he is giving up these rights: (a) to plead not guilty and to persist in that plea; (b) to a jury trial; (c) to be represented by counsel - and if necessary to have the Court appoint counsel - at trial and at every other stage of the trial proceedings; (d) to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses; (e) to be protected from compelled self-incrimination; (f) to testify and present evidence; and (g) to compel the attendance of witnesses.

4. **IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES:** The defendant understands that upon conviction, if he is not a United States citizen, he may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied future admission to the United States. The defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any removal

and immigration consequences that his plea may entail, even if the consequence is automatic removal from the United States.

5. **AGREEMENT ON SENTENCE:** Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(C), and based on an individualized assessment of the defendant and the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), the parties agree that, in addition to the \$100 special assessment, time served plus two years of supervised release is the appropriate disposition of this case. The parties understand that if the Court accepts this plea agreement, the Court will be bound by the recommendation to sentence the defendant to time served plus two years of supervised release. If the Court rejects the plea agreement, the defendant may withdraw his plea.

6. **APPELLATE RIGHTS WAIVER:** The defendant acknowledges, after consultation with his attorney, that he fully understands the extent of his rights to appeal the conviction and sentence in this case. By his signature below, the defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives all rights, including those conferred by 18 U.S.C. § 3742, to appeal his conviction and any sentence of imprisonment, including any issues with respect to the calculation of the advisory sentencing guideline range or the reasonableness of the sentence imposed.

7. **FACTUAL BASIS:** The defendant agrees that the following facts are true, correct, and that, if this case were to proceed to trial, the government would be able to prove these facts beyond a reasonable doubt. The defendant acknowledges, understands, and agrees that he is, in fact, guilty of the offense described herein.

On September 26, 2020, the defendant bought an Armalite, Model: AR50A1, .50 caliber rifle from a man he met at church. The man delivered the gun to Robeson and went shooting with him before the purchase was finalized. The shooting and the transfer of the gun took place at a property in Rio, in Columbia County in the Western District of Wisconsin. Several months later, the defendant sold the gun to a person he met on Facebook messenger. Text messages obtained from the purchaser show the sale being arranged.

At the time of the purchase, the defendant knew that he was not allowed to possess the firearm because he knew that in 2005, he had been convicted of felony insurance fraud in violation of Wisconsin Statute 943.395(1)(b), a crime punishable by 3 ½ years in prison.

The firearm was not manufactured in Wisconsin and thus had traveled in and affected interstate commerce at the time the defendant possessed it.

This information is provided to establish a factual basis for the defendant's guilty plea. It is not a full recitation of the defendant's knowledge of, or participation in, this offense.

8. **SCOPE OF RESOLUTION:** The United States agrees that this guilty plea will completely resolve all possible federal criminal violations that have occurred in the Western District of Wisconsin provided that two conditions are met: (a) the criminal conduct relates to the conduct described in the indictment; and (b) the criminal conduct was known to the United States as of the date of this plea agreement. This agreement not to prosecute is limited to those types of cases for which the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Wisconsin has exclusive decision-making authority. The defendant also understands that the United States will make its full discovery file available to the Probation Office for its use in preparing the presentence report.

9. **ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY:** The United States agrees to recommend that the Court, in computing the advisory Sentencing Guideline range, and in sentencing the defendant, gives the defendant the maximum available reduction for acceptance of responsibility. This recommendation is based upon facts currently known to the United States and is contingent upon the defendant accepting responsibility according to the factors set forth in USSG § 3E1.1. Further, the United States' agreement to recommend a reduction for acceptance of responsibility is also based on the defendant providing a full and truthful accounting in the required financial statement and, if applicable, the defendant's efforts to make immediate restitution payments. The United States is free to withdraw this recommendation if the defendant has previously engaged in any conduct that is unknown to the United States and is inconsistent with acceptance of responsibility, or if he engages in any conduct between the date of this plea agreement and the sentencing hearing, which is inconsistent with acceptance of responsibility. This recommendation is consistent with the defendant signing this plea agreement on or before September 1, 2021.

10. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** The defendant agrees to complete the attached financial statement and return it to this office within one week of the guilty plea hearing. The defendant agrees that this financial statement will be a full and truthful accounting, including all available supporting documentation. The defendant authorizes the United States Attorney's Office to run the defendant's credit report. The defendant also agrees that the probation office may disclose to the United States all financial statements to be completed by the defendant in connection with the preparation of the presentence report, together with all supporting documents.

11. **SENTENCING DISCUSSIONS:** Other than agreements specifically set forth in this plea agreement, the defendant understands that sentencing discussions are not part of the plea agreement. The defendant should not rely upon the possibility of a particular sentence based upon any sentencing discussions between defense counsel and the United States, other than those memorialized in this plea agreement.

12. **SENTENCING RECOMMENDATIONS:** The defendant acknowledges his understanding that if the Court rejects the plea agreement, and he chooses not to

withdraw his guilty plea, that the Court can impose any sentence up to and including the maximum penalties set out above.

13. **VOLUNTARINESS OF PLEA:** The defendant acknowledges that no threats, promises, representations, or agreements exist, other than those set forth in this agreement, to cause the defendant to plead guilty. Defendant acknowledges that he has read this agreement, has carefully reviewed it with his attorney and understands and voluntarily accepts all its terms.

14. **THIS IS THE ONLY PLEA AGREEMENT:** By our signatures below, the defendant and defense counsel acknowledge that this is the only plea agreement in this case.

TIMOTHY M. O'SHEA
Acting United States Attorney

9/23/2021
Date

By: /s/
ELIZABETH ALTMAN
Assistant United States Attorney

9/23/21
Date

Joseph A. Bugni
JOSEPH A. BUGNI
Attorney for the Defendant

11/1/21
Date

Stephen J. Robeson
STEPHEN J. ROBESON
Defendant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I, STEPHEN J. ROBESON, am entering into this plea agreement freely and voluntarily. I am not now on or under the influence of any drug, medication, alcohol, or other intoxicant or depressant, whether or not prescribed by a physician, which would impair my ability to understand the terms and conditions of this agreement. My attorney has reviewed the entire agreement with me and has advised me of the implications of the sentencing guidelines. I have discussed all aspects of this case with my attorney, including the charges against me, the elements of those charges, and possible defenses. I am satisfied that my attorney has provided effective assistance of counsel.

11/1/21

Date



STEPHEN J. ROBESON
Defendant

I am the defendant's attorney. I have reviewed this agreement carefully with the defendant. To my knowledge, my client's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one.

Date

JOSEPH A. BUGNI
Attorney for Defendant