

Crooked CA Lawmakers Back Off, Allowing Elon Musk — and His California Customers — to Play With Fire

- Dirty Politicians Feinstein, Pelosi, Boxer, Harris and Brown own covert shares of Elon Musk's stocks

By Stephen Frank [6 Comments](#)

Democrats hate the idea of folks using their Second Amendment rights to buy guns to protect themselves. They want you, if you have a gun, to lock up the gun in one place, the ammunition in another place, and spend hundreds of dollars to get government permission to buy a gun. This makes self protection impossible and for the poor, they become sitting ducks, they can not afford the background checks, the finger printing, the “training”, the psychological tests, etc. Why are there so many “illegal” guns on the streets? Government regulations—people have to choose between following government edicts or self protection.

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In the coming weeks, some 20,000 people could be walking around with the devices, which resemble toy guns but are capable of emitting flames at least 2 feet long. In California, there will be little to regulate them because lawmakers quietly quashed a bill to rein in recreational fire-spitting.

But, the Democrats had the chance to regulate flamethrowers (not a typo) and refused to do so. For \$500,

Elon Musk is selling 20,000 of them—and I bet he could sell 100,000 if he wanted. Walk down the street and the guy coming towards you will not have a .38—but carrying a flamethrower over his shoulder. Crazy California in 2018—thanks to the Democrats.

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Robbie Short, KQED, 5/30/18

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Let's back up.

Last December, one of Musk's companies began **selling hats** to raise money for its vision of drilling tunnels under urban areas to beat gridlock.

Fired up by a positive public response, Musk **promised on Twitter** that if his Boring Company sold 50,000 hats, it would also begin selling “The Boring Company flamethrower.” He explained the logic of this merchandising leap in **a later tweet**: “I know it’s a little off-brand, but kids love it.”

A month later, the company launched **a sales page** for its flamethrower, and Musk tweeted that the device was a good investment to make in advance of the **impending zombie apocalypse**. He also posted **a video** of himself wielding one with the comment, “I want to be clear that a flamethrower is a super terrible idea. Definitely don’t buy one. Unless you like fun.”

Available at the fire-sale price of \$500, the stock of 20,000 sold out in **just four days**.

Enter Assemblyman Miguel Santiago, a Democrat from Los Angeles. When he first heard about the Boring Company’s scheme, he assumed Musk was kidding. Once he realized the investor was serious, Santiago fired off **a press release** criticizing his decision to move ahead with sales.

“Jokes or not,” he wrote, “this subject matter, in the wake of the state’s deadliest wildfires in history, is incredibly insensitive, dangerous, and *most definitely* not funny. Absolutely no public good could come from the sale of this tool.”

Santiago introduced a bill to limit the sale of flamethrowers in California, making it harder for consumers to buy them for recreational use, while allowing them to be used in, for example, industrial and agricultural settings.

Though it was supported by cops and firefighters, Santiago immediately faced opposition from gun rights advocates. The Firearms Policy Coalition criticized lawmakers for trying to regulate the devices and wrote that **AB 1949** criminalized nonviolent behavior.

“This bill,” the group wrote, “should be torched.”

Santiago narrowed the scope of his bill from requiring a rigorous permitting system for flamethrowers to simply requiring them to carry a safety label. But even that weakened form of the bill stalled Friday, when it was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, a victim of the notorious “suspense file” process in which legislative leaders often kill bills that could pose an embarrassing vote for the ruling party.

The next day, Musk announced that the flamethrowers are “about to ship,” and that his company will hold “flamethrower pickup parties” in a week or so.

Just in time for fire season to hit California.