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SHORT TAKE: 3D-PRINTED GUNS ARE A MENACE

I am not fearful of firearms. I believe the Second Amendment was written with purpose. But imagine a world in which anyone — including terrorists, convicted felons and domestic abusers — has immediate access to untraceable guns. Now imagine that many of these guns are made entirely of plastic or other materials not recognized by traditional metal detectors.

As soon as Aug. 1, anyone with an internet connection and a 3D print-

er — readily available — will be able to make an untraceable handgun, rifle or assault weapon. This is because the State Department has decided to allow a private company to post gun blueprints online for anyone to access. This is a reckless and dangerous action that will enable the uncontrolled distribution of downloadable, do-it-yourself firearms.

As sheriff of Maricopa County, Arizona, I know first-hand the threat such

weapons pose to society. But it doesn't require my 25 years of experience in law enforcement to know how dangerous firearms in the wrong hands can be. Drug cartels, arms traffickers and terrorists will be able to increase their revenue and the volume of weaponry at the expense of our safety. The decision is uncontrollable, irresponsible and unconscionable.

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