

## ***NPR producer defends choice of former AHSA shill as a ‘gun rights advocate’***

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After outrage over a NPR program that featured a “false flag” anti-gun blogger as a “gun rights advocate,” a NPR producer today confirmed the show specifically sought out a gun owner who supported magazine ammunition capacity restrictions to speak for “2nd Amendment supporters.”

The controversy arose over an episode of the show, [“On Point with Tom Ashbrook,”](#) that aired on Monday, January 17, entitled [“The 33-Bullet Magazine – How Much Firepower is Too Much?”](#) The four guests on the show were [Robert Levy](#), Chairman of the Cato Institute and co-counsel in the landmark District of Columbia vs. Heller case, [Rep. Carolyn McCarthy](#), democratic Congresswoman from New York, who at that time planned to introduce [legislation banning “high capacity” magazines](#), [Paul Helmke](#), President of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, and Tracee Larson, identified as a “gun rights advocate and blogger.”

As I wrote in my article, [“NPR identifies ‘false flag’ anti-gunner as a ‘gun rights advocate,’”](#) Tracee Larson was an odd choice to represent the “gun rights” side. Not only did her blog, [“The Well-Heeled Shooter,”](#) have only two posts, she had previously blogged for the “false flag” gun-control group, the [American Hunters and Shooters Association](#).

It turns out that Larson was picked not as a general representative of “gun rights advocates,” but precisely because she was not opposed to magazine capacity restrictions. Robert Farago from [“The Truth About Guns”](#) posted this e-mail he received from a NPR intern looking for guests for the January 17 episode of “On Point with Tom Ashbrook.”

After the e-mail circulated on the web many people questioned the selection of guests for the episode on the “On Point” web page. Here are [excerpts from the message](#) that appeared on the web page in response:

I talked to [Karen Shiffman](#), On Point’s Senior Producer, today about the e-mail and the selection of the guests for the program. Shiffman confirmed the authenticity of the e-mail from Matthew Baskin and that he was authorized to solicit guests for the show.

In response to my questions about how Tracee Larson was selected as a “gun rights advocate and blogger,” Shiffman said, “She responded to our e-mail. She was pre-interviewed by the producer of the segment and he thought she had an interesting perspective.”

When I asked about the controversy over guest selection, Shiffman said, “We discussed our guest selection before the show and again after the comments on the blog. That’s why we issued the statement. I feel very comfortable with what we put on the air.”

“We look for different perspectives,” Shiffman continued. “We had all kinds of views. It’s a call-in show and the callers offered many perspectives. Some opposed the ban. The views on the show aren’t just the guests. The callers offered their views as well.”

Although I tried to engage Shiffman in more discussion about the ethics of seeking out a gun owner who was “not opposed” to magazine capacity restrictions to be represented as a “2nd Amendment supporter,” she declined to discuss the issue further.

“Our plan is not to keep responding to this,” Shiffman said. “That’s why we put the programming note on the website.”

