

March 15, 2009

To the members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

thank you for your time.

My name is Sally F. Balukas and I live at 296 Mile Hill Road, Tolland, CT.

As First Vice President of the eight- hundred- member Rockville Fish and Game Club, an active member of the four- hundred- member Fin, Fur, Feather Club of Chaplin, a founding member of the Connecticut Trappers' Association, and an NRA certified firearms safety instructor and range safety officer, I urge you to oppose Senate Bill# 839.

This bill would transfer the operation of the Board of Firearm permit Examiners to the Department of Public Safety. The independent board in question is made up of volunteers and has a very small budget, so in spite of Governor Rell's good intentions, the transfer would not save the State significant money.

In addition it would make it very difficult for law-abiding gun owners to regain their handgun permits if they were revoked or denied without proper cause. If approved, an applicant who is denied a pistol permit would have to appeal to the very body, the Department of Public Safety, which rejected the permit. This defies logic and any sense of fairness. Please oppose this bill.



Sally F. Balukas