



March 16, 2009

## Local 376

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To: Sen. McDonald, Rep. Lawlor and Members of the Judiciary Committee  
From: Robert Madore, Director  
Henry Fijalkowski, International Service Representative  
Re: SB 353 An Act Concerning Microstamping of Semiautomatic Pistols.

Good afternoon Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Henry Fijalkowski and I am here on behalf of our Director Robert Madore to urge you to oppose Senate Bill 353.

The UAW Region 9A represents over 50,000 members in New England, Metropolitan New York and Puerto Rico. Our membership is very diverse including manufacturing workers, legal service and legal aid attorneys, technical and office professional workers, casino dealers, auto mechanics, adjunct faculty and other university personnel, freelance writers and more.

In West Hartford we represent 500 workers at Colt Firearms. As you may know, due to the unfortunate closing of WireMold in West Hartford, Colt Firearms is now the largest manufacturing company in West Hartford left.

We are not here to talk to you about the challenges and complexities or even merits of microstamping technology. Nor are we here to debate the issue of guns and illegal gun ownership in our society.

That said we are here to talk to you about the 500 people with living wage jobs and benefits who work at Colt Firearms - one of Connecticut's oldest and most reputable manufacturing companies.

As you have heard, the technology required to microstamp semiautomatic pistols is expensive, difficult to obtain, fairly unproven in its ability to solve gun murders, very costly and potentially flawed. Increased costs born by the company, as you can imagine, will simply have to be passed on to consumers hurting the company and its workers in Connecticut.

We believe forcing Colt Firearms and other CT gun manufacturers to employ this unproven technology will put them at a serious competitive disadvantage with other states, create an undue burden, and may force them out of business or even out of state. **This in turn would leave this state with 500 fewer living wage jobs with benefits at a time when we can little afford to lose any more jobs.**

In effect, we urge you to oppose this bill. The risk of forcing such unproven technology on Connecticut's gun manufacturer's is not worth the potential of losing 500 living wage, union jobs currently held by Connecticut residents in West Hartford and many surrounding towns.

That said we are sensitive to the need for better technology to solve gun murders, but we do not believe this technology is the way to do it. Thank you.