

COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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Testimony presented to the **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**, MARCH 16, 2009

IN OPPOSITION to S. B. No. 353 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MICROSTAMPING OF SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOLS.

by Robert T. Crook, Director

Why are we addressing this issue again this year? Micro-stamping is an unproven technology that would require unique identifying information from the firearm, including the make, model, and serial number to be etched into the firing pin and breech face in such a manner that those identifiers are imprinted on the cartridge case upon firing. Last year this bill failed due to industry testimony as unworkable and not proven, statements by University researchers and other independent studies concluded that the patented, sole-sourced technology of firearms microstamping is easily defeated by criminals, flawed, unreliable and must be studied further before any legislature even considers mandating the technology, and finally, the perception that the cost to the industry, the consumer, and the State demonstrates little, if any, benefit to public safety.

Since no manufacturers currently incorporate microstamping in their firearms, this bill would force manufacturers to implement microstamping for sale in CT. Microstamping could force manufacturers to abandon the Connecticut market, rather than spend the astronomical amount of money it would take to completely reconfigure their entire manufacturing and assembly processes. Microstamping would increase the cost of a firearm by \$200 or more. In fact, Colt and Smith & Wesson said they would not sell in CT. The result is a de facto ban on all NEW semi-automatic handguns, and since all retailers in the nation, by law, must follow CT law in buying from or selling to CT residents, it is a nationwide new gun ban on our citizens. IF California implements their law in 2010, which we believe is doubtful, CT residents could then buy only in CA. Is this a beneficial model to impose on CT Pistol Permit holders? What is the proven benefit to public safety?

The technology can be easily defeated in mere seconds using common household tools or criminals could simply switch the engraved firing pin for readily available unmarked spare parts, thereby circumventing the technology. Microstamping would effectively require a police registration system in which firing pins would be treated like firearms.

To date, three comprehensive studies have been done on firearms microstamping: Professor George Krivosta, for the professional scholarly journal for forensic firearms examiners; The University of California at Davis; and most recently the National Academy of Sciences. All three of these independent studies concluded that the patented, sole-sourced technology of firearms microstamping is easily defeated by criminals, flawed, unreliable and must be studied further before any legislature even considers mandating the technology.

Microstamping is the law in California, and MAY go into effect in 2010. It will be applied to new models of semi-automatic handguns only. The CT bill says January 1, 2011. Does anyone truly believe IF the CA system is initiated that reliable data/studies can be concluded in a one year period?

We urge rejection of another justifiably flawed system emanating from a state with far more problems than ours.

Thank you.