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Dear Representative:

It is my understanding that you are a member of the State of Connecticut Joint Committee on Judiciary, and will be reviewing the following raised bill regarding the micro-stamping of firing pins on handguns.

I urge you to oppose Raised Bill No. 353 Microstamping is a failed technology which simply doesn't work. Microstamping will not and can not achieve the stated purpose of the Bill, i.e., "To facilitate the linking of used cartridge cases to the firearm that fired them."

What is the Problem with Micro-stamping?

Microstamping is a process where a laser engraves the firearm's make, model and serial number on the tip of the gun's firing pin so that, in theory, it imprints the information on discharged cartridge cases. Please note that cartridges are only discharged from semiautomatic handguns; they are not discharged from revolvers.

A recent independent, peer-reviewed, study published in the professional scholarly journal for forensic firearms examiners proved that the technology of micro-stamping is not reliable and does not function as claimed. It can be easily defeated in mere seconds using common household tools, even a common finger nail file, or criminals could simply switch the engraved firing pin for readily available unmarked spare parts, thereby circumventing the technology.

Microstamping has no public safety value because it will have no effect on criminal use of firearms. However, it would add substantially to the manufacturing costs of companies like our own Colt industries, Charter Arms and US Arms potentially leading to a decision to move manufacturing jobs out of the State. Microstamping will add substantially to the cost of the firearms used for legal purposes by law abiding citizens, while illegal firearms will still abound.

Further more because or ether removing the numbers from the firing pin with a finger nail file or just changing the firing pin, it can also be defeated with a cartridge cases catcher. Something as simple as a fish tank fishnet attached to the firearm it self is just one way to do this as well as taping a bag to the firearm, etc... The criminal are smart and will get past this. You can not go into Wal-Mart and buy cocaine, heroin, crack but they do get it, right? They will also just add guns to the list of drugs that are coming in from other countries.

In addition this is bad for our already troubled economy forcing gun manufacturing companies to close or move to another state, closing gun shops. This also hurts the alarm companies that provide the burglar alarms, fire alarms, camera systems and maybe even card reader access systems. It affects the insurance companies that insure these companies if they are to go out of business. People will loss jobs and that is something we already have enough of here.

That only adds to unemployment and welfare being paid out buy the state, lost homes hurting the banks that are already have a hard enough time with the high foreclosure rate.

And let's not forget the tax dollars that come from all the types of companies that I mentioned. Also lets face it this hurts the good law abiding people in many ways and the criminal that are already braking the law will reap the rewards and do what they do best.

"You won't get gun control by disarming law-abiding citizens. There's only one way to get real gun control: Disarm the thugs and the criminals, lock them up, and if you don't actually throw away the key, at least lose it for a long time... It's a nasty truth, but those who seek to inflict harm are not fazed by gun controllers. I happen to know this from personal experience." Ronald Reagan, 1983

Your consideration of my request and the careful and thoughtful review of the above bill are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

David Hodgman Jr.