

March 15, 2009

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I am a Veteran of the United States Navy. I served as an Aviation Electronics technician as well as a member of the Base Security augmentation force at Naval Air Station, Lemoore, CA.

My background and history as it pertains to my testimony is that, I was employed at Colt's Manufacturing Co. as a Research and Development Test Coordinator. In this position I was responsible for auditing current firearm designs as well as testing and evaluating new designs and/or materials. Due to the required field testing involved in this position I was a Certified Range Officer at Fort Devans Ma, and coordinator of the Colt's indoor 30 yard test range.

Currently I hold NRA certification as a Range Safety Officer as well as instructor for the following disciplines. (Home Firearm Safety, Basic Pistol Safety, Personal Protection In The Home, Basic Rifle Safety, and Basic Shotgun Safety.

My Purpose here is to state my objection to the Following bill:
Bill No. 353 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MICROSTAMPING OF SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOLS.

Micro Stamping is a new and unproved technology which can be defeated using common household materials quite easily. Laser etching does not penetrate deeply into hard materials and can easily be scraped, sanded or filed off. Usually it cannot be raised again.

The very nature of metals and the function of a firearm can make the *MICRO STAMPED* information extremely distorted or even totally obliterated after prolonged shooting

During a "Capitol News Briefing" on March 3, 2008, Joshua Horwitz of the (Coalition to Stop Gun Violence), Rep. Michael Lawlor (D), Sen. Andrew McDonald (D) and Rep. Bob Godfrey (D) inferred that they are relying on criminals to be stupid. They feel that criminals will not learn to pick up their brass after shooting. There are several inexpensive ways to catch or recover your fired brass as they are ejected from the firearm, or criminals could just choose to use revolvers. Also, these gentlemen only emphasized catching the perpetrator after a crime, not stopping or even reducing crime.

Mr. Horwitz alluded to 1 test conducted by a private party in with no established testing procedures or unbiased witnesses. During the demonstration at the end of the briefing, a gentleman stated that the only way to extend a firing pin through the breach face of a pistol is to pull the trigger. That is not so. With most semi automatic pistols, when the slide is locked rearward you can push the firing pin forward until it protrudes from the breach face. Also, know that most semi automatic pistols can easily be disassembled to the point where the firing pin is removed from the gun. After either procedure the pin can easily be modified.

Testing completed by the University of California at Davis, concluded that 2 of the 3 micro stampings are totally unreadable after 2500 rounds and the 3rd is starting to distort. In related research the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives found that the average time between when a criminally used firearm is purchased and when it is used in a crime is 10.2 years nationally, and 12.7 years in California. That implies a lot of deformation of the firing pin before a forensic technician will get a chance to attempt to match a crime gun to a cartridge at a crime scene.

Last year when a similar micro stamping bill was introduced Rep. Michael Lawlor was asked "if someone shoots a lot for competition and breaks many firing pins, do we need to have extra pins micro stamped for that firearm?" Mr. Lawlor's reply: "I don't care what happens to the micro stamped firing pin after it leaves the factory/retailer. I just want it to have it when it does." To me this sounds as if he just wants to raise the cost and/or make it harder to manufacture firearms so the average AMERICAN CITIZEN cant afford them. An backdoor to circumvent the 2nd amendment to the BILL OF RIGHTS in the U.S. Constitution which has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

***This bill will only increase the already increasing cost of manufacturing firearms and easily be circumvented by criminals (even stupid ones). MICROSTAMPING WILL NOT reduce or prevent crime, but only hurt Firearms Manufacturers, Retailers and law-abiding citizens.**

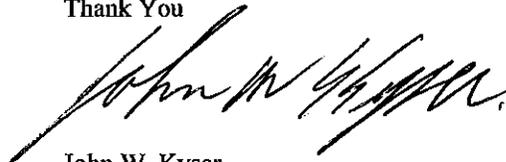
As a law abiding gun owner, a proud citizen of this country and a Veteran, I ask that before considering future firearms legislation you educate yourselves. Technologies like these should be thoroughly researched, tested and proven beyond a reasonable doubt **before the government takes any action**. They should be proven to stop or reduce crime greatly **WITHOUT** reducing law-abiding citizens right to self-defense and ability to enjoy shooting sports.

Bills like this can not be penned and introduced without **UNBIASED** research of the subject from **ALL** sides. Lest they be born from ignorance and/or arrogance.

I do not know the wording of the oaths taken by state representatives and senators, but I am sure there is something in the oaths about "Defending and obeying the constitution" and nothing about changing it to reflect your personal interpretation or that of just the people who can talk to you face to face at the \$1500 a plate fund raisers. They are only a **SMALL** part of the citizenry of the state of Connecticut and the Country.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Thank You



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