

Testimony Submittal regarding SB 353 regarding Micro-stamping of all semi-automatic firearms sold or transferred after January 1, 2011

Submitted to the Joint Committee on Judiciary, March 16, 2009

Submitter:  
Victor Benson  
25 Old State Road  
New Milford, CT 06776  
ph: (860) 350-3502  
email: stenguns@hotmail.com

Dear Esteemed Members of the Judiciary Committee:

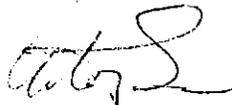
I am testifying in opposition to Senator Martin Looney's proposed SB 353 which would require every semi-automatic handgun sold or transferred in Connecticut after Jan. 1, 2011 to be equipped with a micro-stamp on the firing pin and breech face for the supposed purpose of allowing police to more readily identify the owner of the handgun from spent shell casings retrieved at the scene of a crime and thus facilitate the tracing of the gun to the perpetrator.

My reasons for opposing this proposed bill are as follows:

- 1) This bill is poorly thought out and written with serious doomsday implications for lawful gun owners.
- 2) The bill does not allow for any transfers of "un-microstamped" pistols that are in lawful possession prior to 1/1/11 to any other residents of Connecticut after 1/1/11
- 3) The bill does not allow for the bequeathment and transfer of valuable semi-auto pistols to heirs that reside in Connecticut because these pistols do not have the micro-stamping technology.
- 4) This bill ignores collectors of rare, collectible, antique, and military heritage pistols that were manufactured without micro stamping technology.
- 5) No manufacturers of firearms presently sell pistols with this micro stamping technology.
- 6) Due to the small size of Connecticut relative to the global firearms market, it is unlikely that any firearms manufacturer would find it profitable to invest in microstamp technology solely for the purpose of gaining a market share in our small state.
- 7) Since all or almost all of manufacturers of small arms would find it unprofitable to utilize microstamp technology for Connecticut sales, this would create a de-facto ban on all sales of new and used semi-automatic pistol sales in Connecticut after 1/1/11.
- 8) This technology is unproven and easily defeatable with a simple file to deface the markings on the gun's firing pin and breech face. Additionally, wear and/or parts replacement would render any micro stamping information unreliable and inadmissible in a court of law.
- 9) Most semi-automatic pistols utilize the Browning "tilting barrel" style of locked breech design which would create a sheer effect on the micro stamping when the shell is ejecting thus "smearing" the micro stamping and rendering it unreadable.
- 10) Since most crime guns are stolen, tracing their lawful owners would not necessarily lead back the perpetrator of a crime.
- 11) A criminal could "seed" the crime scene with other casings picked up at a gun range or readily available for sale on the internet or gun shows thus confusing investigator's chances of obtaining a conviction.
- 12) Revolvers, equally as deadly as semiautomatic pistols, would be exempt from the statute and would become the preferred weapon of malfeasance for criminals simply because they do not eject their spent cartridge casings upon firing.
- 13) Many pistol rounds are reloaded by individuals and professional reloading companies. These rounds would bear the micro stamping from two or more firings from microstamped guns thus hampering any tracing efforts by investigators.
- 14) Microstamping cartridge casings would be negated if the microstamp was indented over the case headstamp which is generally indicative of the maker and caliber of the cartridge.
- 15) This bill would have minimal effects on crime scene investigator's efforts to identify the perpetrators of a crime and have monumentally negative effects on the lawful owners of semiautomatic handguns in our state.
- 16) This law will hurt collectors, shooters, and others who lawfully own semi-automatic pistols in our state and the effects on crime scene evidence collection will be nil.

For these reasons and those that are guaranteed in our State and Federal Constitutions regarding that the "right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed", I implore you esteemed gentlemen to kill this bill as it affects only the lawful owners of firearms and does nothing to solve crime or impact criminal investigations but merely serves to impact the peaceful and lawful ownership of firearms by the citizens of our state.

Respectfully,



Victor Benson