

Testimony of Hans D. Justus before the Judiciary Committee
March 16, 2009

Re: SB 353 and SB 358

Good Morning Chairman Lawlor, Chairman McDonald and members of the committee.

My name is Hans Justus, residing in Cheshire. I am a retired engineer and currently President of WLOPA, a sports shooting club in Wolcott.

SB 353

I am opposed to micro stamping of firearms, as it does nothing to either keep guns out of the hands of criminals or assure punishment of them.

* This technology does not work with any degree of reliability (Ref. AFTE Journal Vol 40, No 3; NSSF Micro Stamping Factsheet)

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* Implementation will add large costs to firearms and create a bureaucratic nightmare for manufacturers and

state agencies attempting to keep track guns, replacement parts (coded bolts, firing pins) which must be

matched to the original codes of affected firearms.

* Due to the problems involved in providing special ' Connecticut Versions ' of their product lines, manufactu-

rers would most likely opt not to sell in Connecticut.

* Very importantly, if enacted, this law would ban transfer of firearms not micro stamped from being trans-

ferred. This would greatly affect family heirlooms, valuable collectors pieces and such.

Please consider that this proposed legislation will only benefit the group selling the concept and those who would further restrict access to firearms for law abiding citizens - and do nothing to prevent criminals from obtaining and (ab)using guns for illegal purposes.

SB358

My opposition to this bill is based on the term ' Assault Weapon '. The original and military term defines an

Assault Rifle as a select fire rifle which fires reduced power rifle cartridges. As currently used, it has been applied to a large variety of semi automatic rifles and shotguns.

There are many young people, who aspire to shoot in the National Rifle Matches or to compete in Trap, Skeet or similar shotgun sports. The use of ' Assault Weapon ' could effectively ban them from participating.

Please consider changing the term.

Thank You


Hans D. Justus