

March 16, 2009

Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Bldg
Hartford, CT

Steven Loban
100 Barn Finch Circle
Naugatuck, CT 06770

Re: S.353 (Micro stamping) and S.358 (Minors Prohibited from Machine Guns or Assault Weapons)

Good Morning Chairman Lawlor, Chairman McDonald and members of the Committee. My name is Steve Loban, residing in Naugatuck and I am speaking in opposition to the Micro stamping and Minors gun bills.

It seems like a "déjà vu" experience that a year ago almost to the day we were here, with most of the same people and now with many new faces debating the same issue as last year.

My question to the Committee is why is micro stamping a priority? Why is it on the agenda? We've heard the arguments before; no public safety value, not feasible; counterproductive; de facto new gun ban; unconstitutional in denying access to new pistols; and economically disastrous for the state.

Why hear it again? It has been defeated in every other state where it was introduced, except CA and CA doesn't know if it can be implemented. Why bring it back when its lobbyists suggested it not be considered at the federal level because of the problems with it in California?

Senator Looney believes micro stamping will have no impact on law abiding citizens, when in fact it will. Representative Dillon last year said, "...the concern is about crime and gun violence". Law abiding gun owners of this state are citizens affected by crime, too. We're your neighbors. We pay taxes. And we've asked to be consulted to work with the Committee on real solutions to no avail.

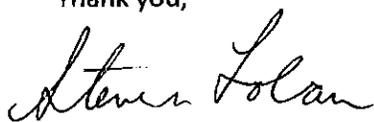
Regarding S.358 the concern here is with the term "Assault Weapon" It may include firearms commonly used in traditional shooting programs preventing shooters under age 18 to participate in National Matches and possibly clay target sports with many commonly used firearms. Please consider removing the term "Assault Weapon" and adhere to the BATFE definition of "Machine Gun" alone.

In closing, I want to refer to Rep. Mary Fritz's comment from last year: "I'm not sure we're headed down the right road with these bills." I ask then, what road is the Committee seeking to travel?

I would welcome an opportunity to engage the Committee to answer questions and help explore other roads to reduce crime and preserve the rights of the People which we all have an obligation to uphold.

The Micro stamping bill offers nothing to aid law enforcement and everything to deny Connecticut citizens access to new pistols.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven Loban".

Steven Loban