

February 19, 2010

Good Morning co-chairs Sen. Stillman and Rep. Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is Steve Loban residing in Naugatuck and I am testifying in opposition to H5158 An Act Concerning the Regulation of Firearms. Section 10 would eliminate private sales of long guns (rifles and shotguns) a decades old, commonly accepted practice among sportsmen, target shooters, hunters, collectors, friends and family members. Section 10 would require the registration of long guns along with an authorization for the sale or transfer as is currently done for handguns. There is no public safety value for long gun registration; it creates an additional administrative burden; it is practically unenforceable and diverts much needed state police resources away from real crime fighting priorities.

Can we expect the state police to take on the additional task of long gun registration, when there recently was an administrative problem with handgun registration? Last fall nearly 11,000 letters were sent from State Police to handgun owners, asking them to provide missing registration forms from as far back as 10 years ago. Clearly there is a backlog, which would be made worse with the additional task of creating and maintaining a Long Gun registration database.

Long gun transfers between individuals require no paperwork or reporting. There are thousands of long guns already possessed by citizens that have been transferred a number of times and might still be traded by individuals without the knowledge of the state police.

The people would be better served if state police would concentrate on arresting many of the thousands of criminals with outstanding warrants, rather than the addition of unnecessary manpower and paperwork to track the activities of law abiding citizens. There are real criminals breaking the law every day, who do not respect the law, no matter what it says. Police should be focusing on stopping criminals, as they have done with the Stolen Gun and Gang task force. I would like to see resources added to that initiative. I urge opposition to this bill.

Thank you,



Steven Loban
100 Barn Finch Circle
Naugatuck, CT 06770