

March 23, 2011

My name is John Beidler, I am a law abiding citizen, a gun owner and a 20 year resident of Southington, CT.

Thank you all for this opportunity to speak with you. I do not support the proposed bill SB1094.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment of our US Constitution is there for the security of a free state and for the protection of US citizens from the threats of criminals as well as tyrannical government, police, or military actions.

Just look around the world. We today are participating in establishing a no-fly zone to protect Libyan citizens from armed incursion by their ruling party and soldiers. We can name any number of nations where citizens are being persecuted and killed simply because they have no means of preventing it, or protecting themselves and their own. Where is it written in our CT or US Constitutions that this body has the authority to soon declare me to be a felon for securing and maintaining an adequate means of protecting my loved ones and my personal property. You Sirs, upon passing this bill, will be infringing on my natural right as a citizen of these United States to keep and bear arms.

I believe proposing this bill at this time is a knee-jerk reaction to the recent tragedies in Arizona and in our own community of East Hartford. Why react by punishing and making criminals of law abiding citizens who are only trying to protect their loved ones and their personal property from the likes of those who perpetrated those crimes?

This bill will not only negatively affect the citizen gun owners, but also state businesses at a time when we can least afford it. How many manufacturing firms, gun shops and gunsmiths will close or lose significant business and maybe precious jobs if this bill becomes law in CT?

I cannot imagine the additional costs associated with incorporating a law which requires us to turn in our, (using your term), "hi capacity magazines." Included in this confiscation order are items that were purchased legally and most of which come standard with legal firearms. How do you plan to fund the increased personnel costs required to collect, record, tag, store, and maintain all the personal property you will confiscate? Where will it be stored and secured? Will we be taxed more to pay for the state to purchase or lease additional facilities for this purpose? Remember, it is the Economy ladies and gentlemen!

If there is money available why not spent it in the prevention of the unlawful, not lawful use of firearms. Why not allocate funds for locating and removing illegal firearms from the gangs and criminals on the street. Protect CT citizens, do not make us the criminals.

Sadly, new laws are never a deterrent for heinous crimes like the one in Arizona. That was perpetrated by a mentally unstable individual, as most of these crimes are. They will continue to obtain their weapons and ammunition legally or illegally, that is what criminals do. Don't be fooled; it only takes an instant to replace a handgun magazine, standard or high capacity. How many rounds do you believe Jared Loughner would have gotten off if another citizen in attendance was appropriately armed, trained and prepared to act to protect his fellow citizens?