

Dear Members of the Public Safety Committee,

I am present today to voice my complete opposition to any bill that threatens to register, confiscate or unreasonably tax any of my legally obtained firearms. The State does not have the right to take any citizens personal property that they legally obtained and paid sales tax on. Any bill that does not have a grandfather clause in it is absolutely unconstitutional. Furthermore, banning every magazine over ten rounds renders many firearms useless since they came from the factory with a so called "high capacity magazine". An update to the assault weapons ban would basically turn hundreds of thousands of Connecticut residents into criminals. Our only crime will be possessing commonly owned firearms that the state, in its infinite wisdoms, deems too dangerous for civilian use. How can the semiautomatic rifle, which has been around for 100 years, suddenly be too dangerous? I think our founding fathers would be outraged by this notion. To say that the second amendment only applies to muskets and hunting arms would mean that the first amendment would only apply to the ink quill and the printing press. America is not a futile society, the power lies in the people not in the Government. The people deserve the right and the ability to choose which reasonable firearm they desire to protect themselves. If you get your updated assaulted weapons ban what will be next? Banning handguns? Perhaps shotguns after that? Any weapon ban leads to a slippery slope that can only be corrected by the Supreme Court. Gun offenders should be given longer prison terms and gun traffickers should be tracked and prosecuted. This is the only way to curb gun violence. Regulating the firearms and magazines locked in my gun safe will do nothing.

Also, please do not give our Connecticut weapons manufacturers any more reasons to leave our state. Connecticut desperately needs their tax dollars and the tax dollars of their suppliers. Banning the very products they produce is no business incentive. In addition, I would rather the state require pistol permits to purchase AR15s than an outright ban. I think this would be a reasonable compromise that gives both sides something. I hope you had a chance to read the front page article in Sunday's Hartford Courant. It provided a fair and balanced report on the AR15.

I would like to thank you for your time and I hope that you make the correct choice.

Sincerely,

Brian Coope

Somers, CT

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