

## Henry, Shane

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**From:** Molly <molly.bielawiec@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2016 8:55 AM  
**To:** pstestimony  
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**Subject:** Support for S.B. 234 and S.B. 235  
**Importance:** High

I am writing to express my support of the two bills noted below:

- SB00234: AN ACT CONCERNING THE LOCATION OF A FIREARMS TRAINING FACILITY

- SB00235: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FIREARMS TRAINING FACILITY

I am grateful to Sen. Tim Larson and Sen. Tony Guglielmo for their leadership on this important issue. They have carefully listened to concerns from State residents and are taking actions that I believe will ultimately help protect small towns in Connecticut, including East Windsor and Willington.

Due to my work requirements, I am most likely unable to attend today's hearing, but I wanted to ensure I voiced my support of these bills. I implore other government representatives to listen to reason and support the passage of these common-sense bills.

As an aside...for the record, I completely disagree with the State's argument that it must construct a brand new, state-of-the-art firearms training facility with every amenity imaginable. In light of the dire fiscal situation facing Connecticut, the State's insistence on building the Taj Mahal of training sites is nothing short of irresponsible. While we can all agree the State Police must have a sufficient training facility, there are other, readily-available options (such as the range in East Haven) that would make far more sense from a cost perspective. Yet, the State is unfairly dismissing these options, simply because they don't check off every single box on the State's outrageously lofty wish list for its new firearms training facility. Well, guess what? When money is tight, compromises must be made. That is a simple fact of life. Individuals know this; families know this; businesses know this. Sadly, the State is completely tone-deaf on this front.

All that being said, since the State is apparently hell-bent on constructing the massive, sprawling, paramilitary complex of its dreams – the very least it can do is utilize its own land for this purpose.

There is a reason why we've seen a groundswell of opposition from residents in East Windsor and Willington on this issue. It is simply a slap in the face to drop an enormous firearms training complex in the middle of these small towns that value their quiet, village charm. We have legitimate concerns; you've already heard them all, so I won't go into depth here. But essentially, residents have every reason to believe this project will destroy their neighborhoods' overall quality of life, decimate the value of their homes and properties, create a stressful environment for nearby schools and daycare centers, pollute groundwater with lead, and wreak havoc on the natural environment.

I am fully aware that State intends to conduct an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) on the sites in East Windsor and Willington. I hope the passage of S.B. 234 and S.B. 235 will stop this nonsense by taking these towns out of consideration altogether. By all means, the State must conduct an EIE on the eventual site. But that site should be land that is already owned or leased by the State. To spend money on an EIE for towns that are vehemently opposed to the project – and have made it clear they will fight it in every way possible – is a shameful waste of taxpayer funds.

I remind you that both Gov. Malloy and the Connecticut State Police have said they “want to be good neighbors” and “won’t go where they’re not wanted.” If there was a shred of truth in either of those statements, then neither East Windsor nor Willington would be considered for this facility.

I fully support S.B. 234 and S.B. 235. This is a major project and it demands a thoughtful process that is transparent to all Connecticut residents. It is completely unfair to shove this project down the throats of small towns who have clearly voiced their opposition. The State has already wasted time and money on its initial exploratory endeavor. It could have saved itself a lot of trouble and time if it simply considered its own land for the project. It’s mind-boggling that such an obvious concept somehow escaped the leadership within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

I truly hope that common sense will prevail and S.B. 234 and S.B. 235 will pass.

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