Hello,

I would like to express my opposition to a proposal (HB-5040) which would place a 35% excise tax on firearms ammunition sold in the State of CT. There are a number of reasons that I think this proposal is a bad idea and for the sake of clarity, I will list my reasoning below.

- As a "public safety" tax it will have no actual effect in reducing gun violence which is the main reason it is being brought forward. As a career public safety professional I can see no value whatsoever in that regard. The people that need to be dealt with are those who have violated firearms laws in the State. This proposal penalizes already highly regulated lawful citizens engaged in legal activities and would actually DECREASE public safety by placing economically based limits on marksmanship and training.
- This proposal appears to be intended to discourage lawful participation in various firearms related shooting sports such as hunting, target shooting, skeet and trap shooting and other legal recreational pursuits. These include high school and youth programs.
- This proposal also appears to target lawful businesses by discouraging purchasers of ammunition from doing business with them.
- Those most impacted by this proposal will be low income individuals who for economic reasons will be disproportionately affected by this 35% tax.

To summarize, there is no rational reason to impose what appears to be an onerous and punitive tax on an already highly regulated and scrutinized portion of the citizenry for what appears to be ideological reasons.

The imposition of yet another tax for anyone in the State of CT is something that should not be taken lightly.

The imposition of a tax which appears to be punitive in nature and which is focused on a particular segment of society for their participation in perfectly legal sporting pursuits is concerning and for the reasons cited above I am asking that this proposal be rejected.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Paul Aurelia
Stratford CT