First and foremost, I Thomas Barnhart, firmly oppose the adoption of H.B. 5040, An Act Establishing An Excise Tax On Ammunition.

I find that this bill is prejudicial to a group of individuals that shoot in sporting leagues such as Skeet, Pistol Target Shooting and other forms of the Shooting Sports.

As a retired member of the military, I enjoy skeet and trap shooting and shoot in a skeet league. I also shoot on an indoor pistol team. Creating such a tax would greatly affect, not just myself, but my fellow sportsmen to continue in competing and enjoying a hobby that brings about a common bond with many members who are; either retired military, law enforcement, veterans or citizens. This hobby brings about friendships, just the same as bowling, darts or other community events and competitions.

I find that this bill would be prejudicial, because I am sure the bill would probably exempt Law Enforcement Officers from the excise tax, just as you have exempt Law Enforcement Officers from other laws passed concerning firearms. Why? Are they any more responsible or law abiding as retired military members, or veterans who served to support and defend the Constitution of the United States? How about the majority of the citizens of Connecticut who are responsible and law abiding? Are you saying by this bill that you are the big brother and better know what is good for us?

Additionally, what is the excise tax to be used for? There is no discussion of what this money would be used for in the proposed bill. I feel this is just a plan to infringe on the 2nd Amendment rights of not only the U.S. Bill of Rights but the Connecticut Constitution Article 1, Section 15.

Definition of infringe: act so as to limit or undermine (something); encroach on.

There have been numerous bills and acts that continue to infringe on the rights of individuals to own a firearm, or enjoy a hobby that they have enjoyed most of their lives. We are not solving the problem with this proposed bill, we are just putting additional burden on individuals that you feel, in my opinion, are threatening you. In my opinion, you are ignorant in firearms and the shooting sports and the responsibility that we as sport shooters have towards the storage and use of our firearms.

Again. I strongly oppose this bill and strongly encourage you to rethink your responsibilities as legislators to the people of Connecticut, and to your oath of office, “... that you will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of Connecticut, so long as you continue a citizen thereof:...”

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas M Barnhart
Groton, CT