To whom it may concern.

I am writing today to express my opposition to proposed HB 5040, “AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION.” First and foremost, the purpose of this proposal is not legitimate. Despite the fact that the proposed tax is a massive 35% which is extremely unreasonable, I cannot support the use of my tax dollars on ammunition to actively fight the very sport I am spending my hard-earned money on. Regardless of how it is worded, the “gun violence and reduction efforts” are mainly attacks on law abiding gun owners in Connecticut. Repeatedly our constitutional rights are being infringed upon, with little to no actual improvement in the vaguely worded “gun violence and reduction efforts.” By stiffening regulations and increasing costs on guns and ammunition, you are taking them away from tax paying, law abiding citizens, but these regulations do little to nothing from keeping them out of the hands of criminals. The end result? A defenseless community.

The wrong people are being targeted with this unfair tax. Do we tax alcohol to fund anti drunk driving programs? Do we tax automobiles, registration or drivers licenses to fund anti distracted driving programs, motor vehicle law observance or state police safety ads and commercials? The groups I recommended above, the ones best suited to safety, not only are hurt by this bill but are hampered in their efforts by increased cost of ammo. Hunters, shooting enthusiasts and competition shooters know safety begins with range time and live fire. This bill would increase the cost prohibitively and actually reduce safety. Gangs who are the largest contributor to gun violence don't practice much marksmanship or safety.

Brian Behnke
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