To: Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee Members  
CC: Lucy.Dathan@cga.ct.gov; Bob.Duff@cga.ct.gov; Richard Blumenthal; Christopher Murphy; Jim Himes  

Re: Oppose H.R. No 5040 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION

Dear Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee Members:

I oppose H.R. No 5040 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION. My name is Jeffrey Chow and I am classified as a High Master in competitive long-range rifle. Like a blackbelt in Karate, this is the highest classification one can achieve in High Power Rifle.

I am opposed to H.R. No 5040 for the following reasons:

- Tournament shooting focuses first on conduct and safety. Safely operating a gun comes through experience which comes from practicing with the use of ammunition. In my opinion, it is a mistake to tax ammunition as it will likely cause shooters to practice less frequently. Furthermore, this tax unfairly biases the burden of funding gun violence prevention with gun owners who wish to improve their abilities and to be safe.

- I believe certain policies that prevent high-risk groups from obtaining guns including domestic violence offenders, people convicted of violent misdemeanor crimes, and people with mental illness and a history of violence may reduce gun violence. However, I do not believe taxing ammunition is such a policy nor do I believe this is the method to fund research into such policies. I believe the logic as questionable when you try to corroborate taxing my right to practice - with funding gun violence prevention.

- This tax is inconsistent with the 2nd Amendment and, in my case, imposes a large financial burden for what is unequivocally a sporting activity having nothing to do with gun violence.

Come election time, I will not support any legislator’s re-election bid that votes for this bill.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Chow