Final Testimony

I am writing to express my opposition to H.B. 5040, AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION. I am an avid competitive shooter and a 35% tax on ammunition would be onerous to say the least. Such a tax would stifle the growth of competitive shooting in the state.

I am also a hunter, a dying breed, in the state of Connecticut. The numbers of hunters is dwindling which makes it more difficult for the state to manage wildlife populations. A tax on ammunition will discourage people from taking up hunting and the state could be faced with uncontrolled populations of deer and bear.

The state already controls who may purchase ammunition, limiting purchasers to individuals who hold; pistol permits, rifle permits, or ammunition permits. Statistically speaking, permit holders are the most law-abiding citizens and taxing them to pay for the criminal use of firearms by the least law-abiding citizens is extremely unfair. Unfortunately there is no way to tax criminal behavior.

I’ve heard it said that the ammunition tax is like the “sin” tax imposed on alcohol and tobacco. I must point out that owning a firearm is not a sin, rather it is a right protected in the United States and Connecticut constitutions. Rights cannot be taxed legally so a tax on ammunition is a devious way of taxing and therefore infringing a right. You have sworn to uphold the Constitution in your role as a state legislator and any effort to infringe the right to bear arms is counter to that oath.

In closing I will say that the proposed ammunition tax is unfair and borders on being illegal.

Respectfully,

Christopher J. Colombo

Marlborough, CT