Date: February 25, 2020

RE: OPPOSE HB 5040

As a State of CT citizen, taxpayer, business owner, property owner, constituent, & responsible firearms owner, I would strongly urge you to vote against the draconian proposal which would add any additional sales tax to ammunition in the State of CT.

The proposed 35% tax increase is clearly intended to punish those of us who already abide by CT State law. This tax will do nothing to make the citizenry safer, and will probably in fact make the citizenry less safe. Many of us that train with our firearms to be safe & proficient in using them, will no longer be able to afford to do so.

I am permitted to carry a handgun in this state & do so, where legal, every day. With this comes a tremendous responsibility. Part of that responsibility is to train regularly at a gun rang with live fire, to remain a safe & accurate shooter. The excessive tax would prevent me from training as much as I do now.

In order to purchase ammunition legally now in CT, a person must have gone through a criminal background check & be permitted to make the purchase. If a person has the intent of purchasing ammunition to commit a crime, a 35% tax will do absolutely nothing to deter their bad intentions. They will pay the tax, & carry out the crime. Or they will purchase the ammo illegally without paying the tax, & commit the crime.

I also shoot trap several times a week as a hobby. Trap is shot in most cases with a single shot, break open, shotgun. The ammunition used to shoot trap is typically 12 gauge target ammo (#7.5 or #8). I’m not aware that there is an epidemic of gun crimes being committed by trap shooters with single shot
shotguns & target shotgun ammo. However, under the current proposal, this “target” ammo would also be subject to the tax & would prevent myself & many of my fellow trap shooting friends from enjoying the hobby we love.

I am 54 years old. It is a shame to see what has happened to the State of CT in my lifetime. CT used to be a thriving, vibrant, booming place to reside in & do business. Now we pay some of the highest taxes in the country. Burdensome regulations on businesses are chasing business away. Our right to protect ourselves with the use of a firearm, which is protected by both the US Constitution & the State of CT Constitution, has gradually been eroded to near non-existence over the past few decades.

If you analyze statistics, states with the least amount of “gun control” & the highest percentage of gun ownership, have the least amount of gun violence. This is not a coincidence.

I myself own property in New Hampshire, & cannot wait to move there because it is a less-taxed, less regulated, more gun owner friendly state.

As I’m sure you are aware, many more people & businesses are moving out of CT as opposed to moving in.

When are the lawmakers in this state going to get it?

You have a very big responsibility to make the right decision. I’m sure you will hear many arguments on both sides. When making your decision on whether or not you support or oppose the tax, I would plead with you to do so based on facts & statistics, not emotions.

I appreciate your consideration.

Kind Regards,

Richard G. DiTullio, Jr.