I am a 66-year-old, law abiding, lifelong resident of CT.

I am semi-retired, and my hobby is shooting Sporting Clays and FITASC both for enjoyment and in numerous competitive events up and down the east coast. Both these sports are clay target sports like trap or skeet and consume 12-gauge shotshell ammunition in large quantities.

An average day of practice consumes 250 rounds, with an ammunition cost of about $80.00. I do this four times a week, for an ammunition cost of $320.00. A 35% tax on this would be $112.00 per week!

This tax may seem palatable to a hunter or occasional shooter that buys a few boxes of shotshells or bullets per year, but it amounts to an outright attack on those of us who are law-abiding weekly clay target shooters!

I realize that people like me represent a tiny percentage of the overall population, but for state government to ride roughshod over any minority in the population is just plain wrong. This is exactly the kind of “stuff” that Connecticut does that adds to list of reasons people leave our state.

To charge me over $5000.00 per year for a tax on ammunition is absurd and would only cause me to legally purchase my ammunition from dealers in other states and legally transport it to Connecticut. Then, Connecticut would not collect this tax from me, and would also lose the sales tax on all my ammunition (over $1000.00 per year) which I would then pay to a different state that does not abuse it’s law abiding shooting community.

Please vote against HB 5040!