To whom it may concern:

I am submitting this letter as testimony in opposition to HB 5040. I am fundamentally opposed to this legislation. It is bad public policy. The proposed legislation serves no legitimate purpose except to inhibit legitimate, responsible gun owners from purchasing ammunition.

I formerly served as a municipal Police Officer for more than a decade and I also served as the Chief elected official for the town of Farmington. My son is currently a Police Officer serving in a larger Connecticut city. The reality is that permitted gun owners have a right to protect themselves and their property against criminals. These same gun owners must regularly practice with their firearm both to maintain proficiency and to be safe. An oppressive tax on ammunition will directly impact gun owner’s ability to maintain proficiency in the use of their firearms. Permitted gun owners are not the persons committing gun related crimes in our communities. There is clear documentation on this fact.

In most cities, Police response times to crimes in action exceed ten minutes. In many rural areas, response times are multiples of this. Citizens have a constitutional right to defend themselves. This legislation is merely an insidious attempt by legislators to abridge that right and to obstruct gun owner’s rights to remain proficient with their firearms.

My family, including my wife, daughter and daughter in law, should continue to have the right and the opportunity to protect itself against violent criminals and we should also have the right and opportunity to purchase adequate ammunition to practice adequately to maintain accuracy and proficiency. It’s only logical and good public policy to promote the safe use of firearms. Please oppose this flawed legislation. Thanks for considering my thoughts.

Jeffrey J. Hogan