As a long standing resident and home owner in the State of Connecticut, I ask you to reconsider implementing the proposed 35% Tax on Ammunition.

I possess a CT Concealed Weapons Permit, however I do not regularly carry a firearm on my person. There are many conceded weapon holders in the State of Connecticut and I feel very strongly that anyone that carries a firearm on a regular basis, should and have easy access to practice at an approved range or private property. Instituting such a tax will limit the amount of live fire, current firearm holders can and will shoot on a regular basis.

While you may think that such an increase in a ammunition tax will help prevent firearm accidents, crimes, etc.. I believe it will increase the chances of accidents, due to lawful firearm owners not having the ability to regular practice. Firearm ownership is a Constitutional Right and using taxes to limit gun use is a plan that was not very well thought out and once again an easy way to increase taxes, hoping it turns into a free revenue windfall for the State.

It will have a negative impact on retail sales tax, as many avid shooters will purchase ammunition outside of the State and have a direct impact on all our CT Sporting Goods retailers and potentially increase unemployment, due to lower revenues at our Firearm Retailers and force them to cut costs.

Why are Massachusetts Liquor Store Parking Lots always filled with CT Registered Vehicles, Gas Stations, etc.? Do you really believe that neighboring States requiring a State ID to purchase ammunition to prevent CT Firearm holders form buying ammunition in a neighboring State? Please reconsider your stance and listen to your constituents.

Connecticut is losing population, not because of Winter, it's because of our failed revenue increasing plans of our State Leadership and increased taxes. We need to cut taxes, reduce spending and stop looking for ways to put a band-aide on cut artery. The State is bleeding and we need to run the State like a business. When my business down, I wish I could simply raise prices and increase my top-line. That will work for year, unfortunately, I'll be out of business the following year. Please stop giving more residents a reason to leave CT.

Over the last 10 years, Connecticut Law makers have reduced the amount of State Land in which we can hunt, reduced our limits on fish and made it harder and more expensive to legally own Firearms. It seems the Sate doesn't want Sportsmen to live in this State. Why? Sportsmen pay taxes, purchase retail goods for fishing, hunting, shooting and we shouldn't look for more ways to push them out of the State.

Since I moved here from RI in 1986, State Lawmakers have instituted a Sate Income tax, opened two Large Casinos, State Lottery, Bottle Tax, one of the highest Gas Taxes, top Liquor Tax, Plastic Bag Tax, need I go on? Lots of revenue increasing programs ..........when are we going to look for ways to reduce entitlements or cut costs? I'm considering a move back to RI, neighboring MA or potentially FL. I pay over $20K in Property Tax to the Town of Ellington for a house that lost over 20% value since I purchased it in 2014. My wife and I pay over $20K in State Income tax ..........how many more reasons are you going to give us to move out of CT, not only so I can purchase my ammunition at a 35% discount, but to save a significant amount of tax?

Lastly, if you want to be accurate in your comments about CT having the Country's best gun laws, get your facts ...............stop listening to Senator Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal. You can still legally purchase AR-15/AK-47 type assault weapons in CT. Yes, legally, and it's embarrassing to listen to our National Leadership thinking they put laws in place to keep our State residents safe from guns. I would argue because of loop holes in our laws, CT residents can legally purchase more dangerous (Other) firearms now, than they could prior to the Newtown Tragedy. Yes, that is fact, "others" are easier to conceal and can use all the same accessories as a banned AR-15. The message sounds great on TV, but it's a lie and not the fault of our law makers, they simply need to ask questions or talk to firearm knowledgeable constituents.

Thank you for your your time and I hope you reconsider this 35% Tax on Ammunition.
If you would like to discuss, have questions or would like to discuss, please feel free to contact me via email or my cell phone; 203-910-7080.

Respectfully,

Wayne M. Labrecque