The following constitutes testimony to OPPOSE HB 5040, “AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION”

On behalf of the nearly 250 members of the Connecticut Chapter of Delta Waterfowl Foundation, a 501(c)3, we strongly oppose any additional State fee that will increase the consumer cost to purchase ammunition. The current legislative proposal to collect a 35% Excise Tax is both arbitrary and capricious. It fails to adequately justify how raising the fee for ammunition on law-abiding citizens will reduce crime, or to fund programs, which is the alleged intent of the statute.

We are not aware of any study or research that will show raising the fee for ammunition will have any net positive affects on reducing crime! Placing a burden of paying an extra tax, severely impacts the affordability of participating in safe shooting sports. Why should the greatest majority of people in Connecticut who use ammunition for sporting activities be subjected to additional fees because of the misuse by a relatively few criminals?

I would be happy to provide additional information to the Committee, if requested.

David L Lersch
Chairman, Connecticut Chapter of Delta Waterfowl