Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee:

I write to strongly oppose H.B. 5040 Establishing An Excise Tax On Ammunition:

This bill directly targets legitimate, permit holding citizens of Connecticut in pursuing their Second Amendment Rights. It will do absolutely nothing to stem the criminal violence in our major cities.

Proposals like HB 5040 only serve to restrain legitimate gun owners and drive our citizens to decisions such as leaving this state; or taking their business out of state to avoid the government imposed burden, thereby aiding in the destruction of our legitimate retail firearms businesses in CT.

I am a firearms dealer with over 40 years of service to the sportsmen and firearms owners in CT. The Legislature damaged my business in the past with poorly conceived legislation. HB 5040 will only further damage the retail firearms trade.

The Federal Government already imposes an 11% excise tax on ammunition. Sportsmen and shooters don’t complain about this tax because all the money raised by the Feds goes back to State Wildlife Agencies for conservation and habitat restoration through the Pittsman-Robertson Act. Ammunition is expensive now; adding any arbitrary state excise tax will only deter honest business in CT.

I ask that you oppose this HB 5040.

Thank You

Chris Marino

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