Opposition to Proposed Bill No 5040 LCO No. 612

Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding committee,

I am 66 years old, a long time responsible gun owner and I OPPOSE HB5040, An act establishing an excise tax on ammunition.

Year after year, the Connecticut legislature looks for ways to increase tax revenue and often on the backs of honest, hard-working, law abiding citizens.

In the case of “gun violence” we are not the problem and we should not have to subsidize the failure of the Legislature to deal with the real problem – criminals who do not follow or care about laws like we do.

I think we’d be better off if we focused on enforcing existing laws, punish those that break them without any sympathy for violent or repeat offenders and reinstate funding for the Statewide Firearms Trafficking task force. Direct the effort where it is needed.

Also, if there were firearms safety classes taught in our schools, there would much fewer gun related accidents and hopefully a better understanding of, and more respect for, firearms.

In the hands of a responsible gun owner, they can be a lot of fun and I look forward to someday taking my grandson or daughter to the shooting range and teaching them the proper handing and use of firearms.

A 35% tax on ammunition is an unfair tax on responsible gun owners who are senior citizens as there is already an 11% federal tax on ammo and of course the 6.35% sales tax.

I do not feel that this bill will accomplish anything, the revenue will get absorbed into the general fund and is backhanded way of more gun control.

I ask that you vote against HB5040.

Thank-you,

A.J. Mastrofrancesco
Wolcott Ct.