Subject: Oppose H.B. 5040

The proposed 35% tax on ammunition is a two part assault on the law abiding gun industry and their customers.

1) Low income gun owners will be hard pressed to properly train and refresh their ammo supply when the cost of a box of shells goes up $3.50 to $5.00 per box of 50 shells. A day of practice shooting, which ensures safe, accurate gun use, can routinely utilize 500 to 1,000 shells. That’s up to $50 to $100 in consumables taxed per day and a responsible gun owner often practices 10 times a year which means this tax will cost up to $1,000 a year just for the privilege of engaging in a constitutional right. The Second Amendment is a right, not a privilege.

2) In Connecticut the gun industry sells about 120,000 guns per year, estimated at $5,000,000 per year in revenue. The ammunition sold by this industry is $20,000,000 in year. In other words, we have a case of ‘razors ver razor blades’. The metaphor describes the economic model where the real money is made on the annuity of consumable razor blades. In this case, the annuity is ammunition. HB 5050 will impact this revenue stream for Connecticut’s Gun Shops.

The real intent of H.B. 5040 will be to damage the revenue of our state gun shops, small businesses that depend on this revenue for to pay their employees and to take care of their families. Here is what will happen. A 35% tax will drive customers to purchase and stockpile their ammunition from bordering states and from online suppliers. For example, ammunition is only taxed a the sales tax rate of 6.25% in Massachusets. We are witnessing a full out assault on the small businesses that sell guns, an attempt to reduce supply of guns to Connecticut’s law-abiding citizens.

In the United States 45% of Americans own guns, legally and with responsibility. The proposed tax on ammunition, designed to reduce gun violence, will be like taxing donuts to combat obesity. It will be ineffective and only serve to punish law abiding citizens and put an unfair economic burden on Connecticut small businesses.

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"Am I not destroying my enemies by making them my friend"- Abraham Lincoln

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