Most Excellent Members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee,

I write to you regarding my opposition to H.B. 5040 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION. My opposition to this bill comes as a law-abiding citizen who supports the shooting sports. Each year over a million firearms are bought and safely used at ranges nationwide.

Many who enjoy the shooting sports intend train with their firearm so that they can be proficient with it should the need ever arise, we pray it never does, where they need to use it in defense of their life or the life of others to stop a threat. This training requires the purchase of ammunition. Currently, prices are reasonable for firearm owners to purchase completed ammunition. This tax would cause an undo burden on individuals who wish to train properly with their firearm causing them to train less.

Criminals will be empowered with this law as law-abiding citizens will not be able to afford ammunition thanks to another tax being levied in an already high tax state. This will cause an increase in crime, as we know criminals do not follow laws.

Due to this increase, other may be encouraged to go to other states to purchase ammunition causing a decrease in tax collection from ammunition sales. We saw this with the bag tax which only collected a third of what was projected.

Finally, this bill only acts as a sin tax for those who wish to exercise their second amendment rights. I know that I do not need to remind you that the U.S. Constitution was not written to restrict the citizens, but to remind the government of the restriction that the citizens have imposed upon it. We do not impose a sin tax on any other constitutional right. Why should we when people wish to exercise their second amendment right? Also, Article 1 Section 15 of the Connecticut Constitution upholds the right of the people to bear arms.

My hope is you will oppose H.B. 5040 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION with me ensuring affordable training for law abiding citizens, allowing for the defense of life, continuing to collect tax here in Connecticut, and upholding the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Connecticut.

Regards,

Raymond Wood II

Killingly, Connecticut