• I am a competitive clay target shooter. Frequent practice with live ammunition is essential to maintain a competitive edge and to maintain the safety skills essential for responsible firearms ownership. As a former Army Officer these truths are self evident.

• However, the proposed bill is both onerous and regressive. It penalizes many thousands of CT residents who are law abiding and hardworking citizens and who have already gone through considerable expense in complying with CT laws.

• In addition to 6.35% the state sales tax on ammunition there is a federal excise tax of 11% built into the price which supports programs such as hunter safety and wildlife conservation. Last year CT received back from the federal government approximately $5 million dollars as a direct result of this federal tax on ammunition and firearms.

• The stated purpose for this new excise tax is “to increase funding for gun violence prevention and reduction efforts”. Acceptance of this logic requires the Citizens of Connecticut to suspend disbelief. The truth lies elsewhere and our Legislators know it.