Ammo tax hearing testimony

Please accept the following testimony regarding HB 5040.

I cannot express enough how much I am opposed to this bill.

At Representative Gilchrest's website I learned about how the money raised for this bill would be distributed and why. It was said that urban areas experience too much gun violence and the money would be disbursed to groups who's main purpose is gun control not safety. Why not give money to the NRA safety groups and firearms instructors? We have grass roots groups like the CCDL and others who advocate safety and responsible gun ownership day in and day out.

I suspect that the majority of responsible gun owners in CT live in suburban areas. The violence isn't there but they would bear the brunt of this tax. I've lived in Harwinton for 60 years and cannot remember a single incidence of gun violence. The wrong people are being targeted with this unfair tax. Do we tax alcohol to fund anti drunk driving programs? Do we tax automobiles, registration or drivers licenses to fund anti distracted driving programs, motor vehicle law observance or state police safety ads and commercials? The groups I recommended above, the ones best suited to safety, not only are hurt by this bill but are hampered in their efforts by increased cost of ammo. Hunters, shooting enthusiasts and competition shooters know safety begins with range time and live fire. This bill would increase the cost prohibitively and actually reduce safety. Gangs who are the largest contributer to gun violence don't practice much marksmanship or safety and my suspicions are violence would hardly change.

This bill like other gun control bills and laws before it is a backdoor attempt to restrict lawful, responsible gun ownership and is disagreeable in the extreme to shooting enthusiasts enjoying a sport of hand and eye coordination, self-control and marksmanship. The logic to attempt this is like banning automobiles and alcohol for everyone because of drunk drivers. By definition law abiding gun owners are not the problem and a bill like this is either a feel-good measure or a step towards Second Amendment nullification.

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