Good Morning Representative Gilcrest, and all Senate and House Representatives of the General Assembly,

As a hobby firearms owner, a shared interest with my wife, neighbors, I have recently come across this proposed bill that would impact every conscientious, legal, and registered firearm owner. Those owners who have no intention of harming anyone and would be the first to step up and stop any misuse of a firearm. Growing up in Michigan where hunting was a way of life to keep meat in the freezers for a good portion of the year, I learned to handle and respect firearms and intend to share that respect with any person who questions why we even have firearms. I have no problem with stated background checks, requirements for training and the fees I have spent to obtain the required permits to pursue this hobby. Although I no longer hunt in my advanced age, I continue to share my respect and knowledge and will willingly escort friends and family to the range for the experience to understand the dangers of handling firearms and enjoyment of getting to know what firearms are all about.

While I appreciate the concern over addressing the firearms violence issues that make the front pages by occasional mass shootings (and condemn such events), I feel it is unfair to the law abiding firearms owners who responsibly treat their passion with respect to be forced into and selectively impacted by this additional, excessive tax.

Cars harm people, drunk drivers harm people, idiots who should be in jail harm people; there is danger everywhere we turn. Knives, Vaping; We have recently added hatchet throwing to the mix of hobbies. Will we be imposing additional excise taxes on each of these dangerous items?

Connecticut already collects licensing fees for firearms permits. The state collects over 6% tax on every firearm purchased, every round of ammunition sold, time spent at the range. Why isn’t that 6% enough to do what is needed to fund firearm violence prevention? Anyone intent on doing something stupid isn’t going to let an additional 35% tax stop them. The only persons being hurt by this additional excise tax will be the law abiding citizens who are already paying for background checks and licenses.

The taxes we pay on gasoline supposedly goes to maintain the roads, sales taxes to fund the state, income taxes, property taxes, hunting and fishing license fees to fund the welfare of our state’s outdoor resources... When is it going to be enough?...

I respectfully request that this proposed bill 5040 be killed and not implemented.

Thank you,

Norm Stine, Seymour, Ct