I am very much against any excise tax on ammunition.

Those of us buying ammunition are necessarily law abiding. We have the correct permits to be allowed to purchase ammunition. Our purchases can be tracked if the state decided. I would advocate tracking individual purchases as it would show how those of us who follow the law are responsible in our use of firearms and ammunition.

I have several other concerns.

I think laws passed about safe storage of firearms and ammunition would be more effective than an excise tax for an ill-defined purpose. I believe Connecticut should mandate that firearms be locked up in an appropriate safe when not in use, and ammunition always stored and locked separately. These are basic safety precautions, and what I was taught and what I practiced during my thirty-four years’ service as an officer in the US Navy.

The state of Connecticut does not have much successful experience in using excise taxes for their express purpose. I sense this excise tax would probably end up as part of general tax revenues. This would cause responsible firearms users to doubt the state’s claim to want to improve safety and lend credibility to the claim this tax is punitive.

Also, I think this excise tax would only serve to drive purchase of ammunition underground just when Connecticut has done great work keeping firearms use and purchase transparent. Just as firearms make their way to our state from other states with lax regulation, this excise tax would cause ammunition to be obtained in the same way.

Please do not support this excise tax, but take action to mandate safe storage for both firearms and ammunition. That would have real positive impact.

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