Testimony on: H.B. 5040  AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION

Subject: Oppose H.B. 5040

Dear Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas, Distinguished Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I strongly urge you to oppose H.B. 5040.

When you assumed your offices, you made the following oath:

“You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of Connecticut, so long as you continue a citizen thereof; and that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the office of .... to the best of your abilities; so help you God.” (ref: CGS Chapter 4, Sec 1-25)

As I am sure you are well aware, the first of those documents mentioned in that oath, The Constitution of the United States, contains the following:

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” (ref: Amendment 2) [emphasis mine]

The second of those documents, The Constitution of the state of Connecticut, contains the following:

“Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state.” (ref: Article First, Section 15) [emphasis mine]

Common logic would dictate that the “arms” mentioned in the above clauses would be useless without ready access to ammunition to use in them. Imposing the proposed 35% tax on ammunition would create an undue burden on citizens of the state that choose to defend themselves in a legal manner by exercising their constitutionally (both National and State) protected right.

I hope that you will consider these points and oppose this bill.

Best regards,

Daniel Wrobel

Colchester