

## **To All Legislators**

**Some State legislative leaders want to pass a composite bill, the major issue firearms, by Feb. 28. To meet the deadline, lawmakers will bypass the normal system of legislative committee deliberations and public hearings by using the emergency certification, or "e-cert" process. Normally, legislation of this magnitude would have to go through numerous standing committees including appropriations, judiciary, public safety and insurance – each of which might have held its own hearing. But the emergency-certification process bypasses that. State Senate President Pro Tempore Donald Williams said there's been ample public input. I disagree!**

**While I can't dispute the legality of the "e-cert" process, in this case it deprives citizen testimony and other input on the actual bill. At the discussing "Information Hearing" discussion of PROPOSED concept bills with NO statutory language took place. No lobbyist, legislator, or knowledgeable citizen would ever testify on a bill without viewing/evaluating statutory language. Without a public hearing to promote/oppose/discuss issues of concern and HOW they will be implemented and WHAT will affect the legal gun owner as to bans, restrictions, economics, compliance, and others, we believe this is a clear "Denial" of rights to provide input from those who will be affected. To state the "information" hearings are sufficient for passage is a travesty.**

**Also at the public hearing, no questions were asked of those testifying and there have been no gun owners, FFL holders, target shooters, or those who have defended themselves included in the "Experts" meetings. NSSF, representing manufacturers was appropriately included, but no expert end users. And, No proposals contemplated by gun owning organizations were requested. Why not?**

**At the firearms "information hearing" where sportsmen attendance was estimated at close to 2,000 we were forced to process through metal detectors and body screening. Only through dedication and the desire to make their voices heard on these CONCEPTS, many waited 2 - 2 1/2 hours in blinding snow and cold winds to gain entry and many left. At NONE of the other 3 hearings were metal detectors used. At no time in CT history have firearms/dangerous weapons ever been seized at gun hearings. Discriminatory? This action most assuredly shows the disdain some legislators have for a certain segment of the law abiding citizenry.**

**As Legislators sworn to "Represent", not rule the citizens of Connecticut, I expect you to "Demand" that any of these bills pass through the normal legislative process and "Stand Firmly Against" any attempt to fast track them via Emergency Certification.**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Thomas Phelps**

**125 Phillips Rd.**

**Lisbon CT. 06351**

**860-376-5680**