

Connecticut



Waterfowlers
Association

January 25, 2019

Dear Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee Members:

I am writing you on behalf of the Connecticut Waterfowlers Association (CWA) a 52-year-old Connecticut conservation group dedicated to wetland conservation and the preservation of the tradition of waterfowl hunting. The CWA urges you to oppose H.B. 5700, *An Act Increasing the Rate of Sales and Use Tax on Ammunition*.

This bill is of interest to CWA, because a basic tenet of waterfowl hunting education is that waterfowl hunters become proficient shooters to ensure that the harvest of waterfowl is done as ethically as possible. As such, waterfowl hunters spend a lot of time practicing shooting clay targets and expend a lot of ammunition.

This bill unfairly penalizes waterfowlers and other shooters. Keep in mind that sportsmen and other shooters already pay a Federal tax on firearms and ammunition that has provided the majority of funding for wildlife management that benefits both game and non-game species through the Wildlife Restoration Act (also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act).

Many shooters already purchase ammunition out-of-state because the cost in Connecticut is so high. If this bill passes, this trend will increase, likely resulting in a net loss of revenue to Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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