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MCA and WCLSC oppose H.2771 Excise taxes

1 message

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To: JointCommittee.Revenue@malegislature.gov

The Mass Conservation Alliance and Worcester County League of Sportsmen's Club oppose H.2771 .

www.massconservationalliance.org

www.wclsc.org

Both groups represent law-abiding sportsmen and women across the state, numbering in the tens of thousands.

The proposed excise tax is excessive with many foreseen negative impacts:

- drive law abiding firearm owners to make purchases out of state; there would be a loss in both sales tax and any recognition of excise tax by state as it relates to the Pittman-Robertson funds
- significantly increase the cost to pursue hunting sports, already on top of MA DFW license fee increases; which can result in reduced sales and in turn less Pittman-Robertson funds coming back to the state. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pittman%E2%80%93Robertson_Federal_Aid_in_Wildlife_Restoration_Act
- makes practicing Second Amendment rights less affordable by low income residents; makes firearm ownership gentrified by law abiding citizens
- makes law abiding citizens less likely to practice with their firearm, increasing a risk of poorly placed shot in a defensive use situation.
- will drive any competitive shooter out of state, due to the volume of ammo they shoot. In the future, don't expect any olympic competitor in the firearm sports to call their home MA

There is already an 11% excise tax on firearms and ammo collected at the Federal level, that feeds into the Pittman Robertson act.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pittman%E2%80%93Robertson_Federal_Aid_in_Wildlife_Restoration_Act

In 2022, MA received \$11.4M, of which \$6.7M is tied to firearms and hunting.

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/WR%20FY22%20Certificate%20of%20Final%20Apportionment%202022Feb3_508.pdf

There are many other ways the state can pursue Public Safety, starting with enforcing the existing laws on the books. DA's too often drop firearm charges and pursue lenient sentences and probation with other non-firearm charges. This policy forgoes the mandatory 1 year prison sentence that is on the books.

So, adding more funds to MA General Fund while decreasing funds going to MA DFW will also directly affect wildlife management.

There is no other state or community in the USA that can directly correlate increased 2A costs with a reduction in crime or improved public safety.

In listening to the recorded testimony, the Bill supported making a claim that reducing lead in the environment will improve safety and reduce the risk of children ingesting lead is a stretch of the imagination. Law abiding citizens of MA do most of their shooting at sporting clubs with safety berms. These are not children sandboxes. Most lead poisoning in children has been well researched through the decades with the elimination of lead based gasoline and paint containing lead.

I can be reached for future discussion and more detailed explanation for opposing H.2771

In summary, our request is to not advance H.2771

Best Regards

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