October 17, 2025

Chair James Eldridge
Joint Committee on Revenue
ATTN: David Emer
24 Beacon St, Room 511-C
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Eldridge and Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Safari Club International (SCI) and our members, I write in opposition to House Bill 3082 and Senate Bill 1652, an act establishing an excise tax on guns and ammunition

As hunters and recreational shooters, we have a long history of promoting firearm safety and responsible firearm ownership. However, we strongly oppose placing an additional excise tax of of 4.75 percent (on top of the existing 6.25%) on the retail sale of all firearms and ammunition sales in the state.

While we agree that the state would benefit from making available additional resources for crime victim support services, gun violence prevention, safe and lawful gun use, and enhancement of school safety, HB 3082 and SB 1652 inappropriately place the entire burden of funding these programs on a single segment of Massachusett's law-abiding public.

Moreover, firearms and ammunition are already subject to an 11% manufacturer-level federal excise tax on the sale of firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment pursuant to the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman- Robertson; 16 U.S.C. §§669 et seq.). It is important to note that it this was sportsmen and women who stepped forward to advocate that this pre-existing tax be redirected specifically towards wildlife conservation and habitat through providing funding for states and territories to support wildlife restoration, conservation, and hunter education and safety programs."

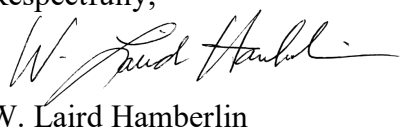
The funds collected through Pittman-Robertson are distributed back to state game and fish agencies. Last year alone Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game received just shy of $8.7 million in Pittman-Robertson monies. These funds contribute significantly to the state's wildlife management, conservation, research efforts and hunter safety programs.

House Bill 3082 and Senate Bill 1652 are inherently different from the excise taxes under the Pittman-Robertson Act, which are placed on manufacturers, rather than taxing an individual's right and ability to purchase a firearm or ammunition. By significantly increasing the overall tax rate of all firearms and ammunition, HB 3082 and SN 1652 would very likely reduce their sales in-state and, in turn, would negatively impact the federal Pittman-Robertson dollars on which all state fish and wildlife agencies rely on for critical wildlife conservation and management efforts.

Additionally, by substantially raising the cost of purchasing a firearm and ammunition in Massachusetts, HB 3082 and SB 1652 would disproportionately impact the ability of economically disadvantaged communities and individuals to legally purchase a firearm and ammunition for hunting and recreational shooting, restricting their ability to enjoy these outdoor recreational pursuits.

For the reasons stated above, we urge your opposition to HB 3082 and SB 1652.

Respectfully,



W. Laird Hamberlin
Chief Executive Officer
Safari Club International