

February 2, 2022

Minnesota House of Representatives, Preventive Health Division

Re: Lead Ammunition Ban **Position: Oppose**

Dear Division Members:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (“NSSF”), I express strong opposition to House language in HF2556 (Morrison) which seeks to ban the use of traditional, or lead, ammunition while hunting in Minnesota.

As the trade association for America’s firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry, the NSSF seeks to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. NSSF has a membership of more than 12,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, and sportsmen's organizations. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding Minnesota sportsmen and women, the U.S. military, and law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

The proposed prohibition of the choice of lead ammunition will undoubtedly increase the price of alternative ammunition and could have a detrimental impact on hunting in Minnesota, affecting not only sportsmen and women and Minnesota's tourism economy, but wildlife and conservation efforts in Minnesota. Recently, efforts by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to ban traditional ammunition on WMAs was met with strong opposition by hunters and conservation groups demonstrating that choice in ammunition is vitally important to Minnesota's hunting communities.

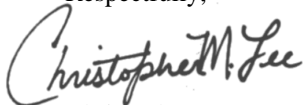
Despite there being no scientific evidence to support the hypothesis that lead ammunition is endangering the health of individuals or any wildlife, anti-hunting interest groups are continuing to press state legislatures and departments around the country to support a ban on traditional ammunition. Much more research on the actual claims of toxicity in humans must be done prior to even considering abolishing the use of lead in ammunition.

Our industry is proud of its strong presence and economic impact in Minnesota, but we are equally mindful of the important role sportsmen play in Minnesota’s economy. Our membership includes Minnesota-based federally licensed firearms retailers, most of which are small “mom-n- pop” businesses that are the backbone of the state’s economy, and large ammunition manufacturers such as Federal Premium Ammunition. Such a ban on the use of traditional ammunition at a time when demand is increasing due to increased numbers of hunters, could lead to the closure of small businesses and exasperate the ammunition shortages Minnesota is currently experiencing. This will of course impact mostly rural communities since these businesses are the ones that bring tax revenue to the small towns and provide the jobs for residents.

Additionally, any action taken by the legislature that leads to the reduction in the number of hunters or creates barriers for new or reactivated hunters will adversely affect management and restoration of wildlife in Minnesota. NSSF member, Federal Premium Ammunition, which has contributed several hundred million dollars over the last few years to the Pittman-Robertson Act which funds wildlife nationally as well as in Minnesota.

For these reasons, the NSSF strongly opposes any attempt to ban the use of lead ammunition, or lead shot, also known as traditional ammunition.

Respectfully,



Christopher Lee