New York State Conservation Council Inc.
8 East Main Street, Ilion, New York 13357-1899

MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

Bill # **A 5826** Jaffee Same as **S 470** Peralta

Title: Requires that all semi-automatic pistols manufactured or sold in NYS be capable of microstamping cartridge cases upon firing with a unique code identifying the make, model, and serial number of the pistol.

Justification:

Before it is introduced, a new forensic technology must be proven to be an effective aid to law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of offenders. The technology proposed here does not meet that standard. While it may demonstrate future potential, it is at this time unproven, both as a technology and as a law enforcement tool.

While the concept of microstamping might seem to offer a powerful forensic tool, this system is clearly "not ready for prime time." It is still an emerging technology that has yet to be proven either operationally or economically viable. Substantial further development and real world testing on a much broader scale than is feasible in a single state will be necessary before any determination can be made as to its technical viability and economic sustainability.

While a yet-to-be-developed microstamping system would appear to have some value to law enforcement, this is not a foregone conclusion. Certainly, it is not the panacea its sponsors tout. Even if this technology does identify a specific firearm, the most it can do is point to the original legal purchaser. It does nothing to put the pistol in the hands of the perpetrator of the crime.

A great deal of work remains to be done in evaluating the real-world performance and the cost of integrating this type of technology into the forensic sciences and the manufacturing world. This must be conducted with the discipline of forensic science, not the fervor of social engineering. Forcing the implementation of this technology on the sportsmen of New York State would be serious mistake.

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