**SAMPLE LETTER OPPOSING AB 1227 –**

**Delete/replace text in red as needed to personalize your letter. Thank you!**

Senator **<INSERT YOUR SENATORS NAME HERE>,**

I urge you to vote NO on AB 1227 when/if the bill comes up for a vote on the Floor in the near future.

This legislation, which would impose an additional 11% excise tax on the price of all long guns, firearm parts, and ammunition and an additional excise tax of 10% on the price of all handguns is unnecessary given the state has just recently made a record $209 million in funding available for programs intended to address illegal firearm violence. Additionally,

* <Choose a few bullet points that reflect your reasons for opposing AB1227 or add your own!>
* AB 1227 would unjustifiably place the burden of funding efforts to address illegal gun violence solely on the backs of citizens who legally purchase and lawfully use firearms and ammunition.
* By substantially raising the cost of guns and ammunition, AB 1227 would disproportionately impact the ability of the poor, and disadvantaged people of color to protect themselves and their loved ones and their equitable access to hunting and shooting sports – at a time when the Administration and the Legislature are seeking to increase participation in outdoor recreation and access for all Californians.
* All Californians benefit from programs, education, and research intended to reduce illegal gun violence, and all Californians should help fund their implementation.
* In addition to sales tax, lawful hunters and recreational shooters already pay an 11% excise tax on long guns, ammunition, archery, and other hunting equipment as well as a 10% excise tax on handguns pursuant to federal Pittman-Robertson Act (PR). But those dollars are allocated back to states to fund beneficial programs – including wildlife habitat projects that benefit game and non-game species. This year alone, California was allocated over $30 million in federal PR dollars – monies which will fund a large portion of our state’s wildlife management, conservation, and research efforts.
* AB 1227 would reduce the sales of sporting arms and ammunition, resulting in a reduction in funding available for wildlife habitat projects which benefit all Californians.
* AB 1227 would double the excise tax law-abiding hunters and shooters already pay on all firearms and ammunition – effectively raising the total tax rate on these items to nearly 30%.

AB 1227 would do nothing to reduce criminal use of firearms but would inequitably impact California’s lawful hunters, our wildlife, and their habitats, and disproportionately impact communities and Californians that are economically challenged attempting to secure their safety by exercising their second amendment rights.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote NO on AB 1227.

Respectfully,

**<SIGN YOUR NAME HERE>**