

Richard Coshow  
Bridgton  
LD 1696

I am writing to you today to urge you to vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD 1696, “An Act to Create a Civil Cause of Action for Persons Suffering Damages Arising from the Sale of Abnormally Dangerous Firearm.” As you have already heard at length during the public hearing, this poorly drafted bill attempts to evade the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) and provides not real definition for what a “abnormally harmful” firearm is.

The PLCAA protects manufacturers and retailers in a variety of industries from the improper third-party misuse of their products. Just like it is unreasonable for Ford to be sued if one of their vehicles is used to commit harm, it is equally unreasonable to firearms manufacturer to be sued if one of their firearms is used in a crime. By attempting to pass this bill, it would be a gross overstep by the State of Maine and an attempt to evade long-standing federal protections.

This poorly written bill highlights a deep misunderstanding of federal law and the firearms industry. If passed, it would completely shut down the firearms commerce industry overnight, shuttering small outdoor retailers from Kittery to Fort Kent. Because of this, I strongly urge you to vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD 1696.

Thank you for your service to our state.