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LD 1696

LD 1696 Ought Not To Pass.

The Amendment submitted yesterday abrogates legislative responsibility to write clear, concise, actionable, and meaningful law, and unadvisedly shifts that responsibility to the Executive Branch, the Attorney General. Furthermore, it makes LD 1696 weaker as it prevents complete evaluation and assessment of the cause of action and vests same in a sole office (Attorney General) rather than allowing due process and civil procedures to run the course. The Attorney General should not write law. The Committee should not vest this authority or power in one office.

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 no 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.