

January 29,2024

Testimony in support of LD 2130 – An Act to Prohibit Unauthorized Paramilitary Training

Senator Beebe Center, Representative Salisbury and members of the Committee. I write today in support of Rep Osher's bill, LD 2130.

I was born and raised in Maine (Old Town)

and still live in Brunswick, Maine. I appreciate the beauty of the state and the rural nature of secluded, tucked away places. I don't, however, appreciate out-of-state groups coming in and buying up land with the sole purpose of training to do harm. The January 6th insurrection comes to mind. I shudder to think that participants used Maine land to train to cause such destruction and death to members of our U.S. Congress and dedicated staff.

Paramilitary activity is not authorized by federal or state law, and it is unlawful in all 50 states. Rep. Osher's bill attempts to remove such nefarious activity from happening in our state. It is all well and good to train individuals in the safe handling and use of a firearm if they are legally allowed to purchase one. It is not acceptable to allow the making of a firearm, explosive or incendiary device for the purpose of causing harm. I think the exemptions outlined in the bill language address lawful use quite well.

The right to bear arms as stated by many constitutionalists comes with regulations (not infringement) designed to protect the rights of all citizens from injury and death.

Please vote to pass this important piece of legislation.

Lynn Ellis

Brunswick, Maine