

Mark Howes
Whitefield
LD 2224

Opposition to LD2224, LD2238

An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and all committee members,

My name is Mark Howes and I'm from Whitefield. Today I stand in opposition to LD2224, LD2238, and any other bills that attempt to strip Maine citizens of their rights, but I'd like to speak specifically about LD2224.

Occasionally, I sell firearms and I have a checklist that I follow to keep firearms from prohibited people. This is not a comprehensive list, as time is limited.

- 1.) When posting, I state in the ad that you must be eligible to legally purchase and possess a firearm in the state of Maine and also put NO FELONS in large letters. I ask the interested parties to answer that question directly.
- 2.) If I'm contacted by email, I look at the address. If the address is "ismokedank420@gmail.com", or some similar address that indicates that they are a prohibited person, I do not reply to the email. This has actually happened.
- 3.) If a person responds to an ad with out of state area code, I ask for a valid Maine ID before the transaction happens. I have done this on several occasions.
- 4.) If a person arrives at a transaction with out of state plates, I again ask to see ID and make sure it is valid. No ID, no sale.

To the people and organizations that support these bills, listen to me now. We both want a safer Maine, but my rights are not negotiable. Public education around the sales and transfer of firearms is not well understood. We can work together to create educational pamphlets about gun transfers, create a website as a reference to Maine gun laws along with a sales and transfer guide, with an ad campaign to support both. Work with Gun Owners of Maine. Work with Sportsman's Alliance. Let's make a campaign to help people understand how to add safe and preventative measures to the movement of firearms in our state.

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