Rachel Herbener Belfast LD 303

Greetings Committee :

Please do not repeal LD 303, the Law Prohibiting Unauthorized Paramilitary Training. My mind is reeling. It is incomprehensible that the state of Maine is considering repealing this Act. Why would you protect Nazi, white supremacist, paramilitary groups and abandon law-abiding constituents? We all know that many citizens now believe it is their duty to take up arms and fight for their beliefs. In their minds, this "right" to use violence was vindicated by Trump's mass pardon of the January 6 Insurrectionists who attacked our Capitol and killed law enforcement officers.

In Oct., 2024, months before Trump's mass pardon, The Center For Strategic and International Strategies:

5y3ttps://www.csis.org/analysis/rising-threat-anti-government-domestic-terrorism-wh at-data-tells-us

published the following:

"The number of domestic terrorist attacks and plots against government targets motivated by partisan political beliefs in the past five years is nearly triple the number of such incidents in the previous 25 years combined, according to new CSIS analysis of 30 years of domestic terrorism data in the United States. This includes attacks and plots against elected officials, political candidates, political party officials, and political workers from terrorists with opposing political views. This rising threat warrants continued efforts to increase protective security measures of government targets, strengthen response plans in the event of a successful attack, and counter the spread of disinformation, conspiracy theories, and violent rhetoric that have motivated many attackers."

You have a duty to protect Mainers, indeed all U.S. citizens from the documented violence that paramilitary groups revel in. Do your job.