

Peter Morgan
Raymond
LD 486

Good afternoon, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

My concern for the Maine community should be evident by my lived experience, though not a native Mainer I've chosen to move here in retirement with my wife of fifty years. We met during the Vietnam conflict when I was motivated to join a humanitarian service, engaged in nautical search, rescue and maintaining domestic aids to navigation.

As our sons were in a Philadelphia area high school at the time of the Columbine massacre, I was then introduced to the violent aspects of United States society. I was unaware of how dangerous it was and had no idea how it was becoming worse. Our legislative bodies have allowed an effective assault weapons ban to expire in subsequent years and have missed opportunities to provide guidance in firearm safety and population protection.

The effect of implementing LD486, referred to as the "Stand Your Ground" bill, will not result in supporting self defense positions but justify escalating a confrontation that should be avoided. (I concede that a home, your home, is recognized as "your ground," but in a public setting the area is "OUR" ground.) Our society needs to emphasize the importance of conflict resolution, so lacking today in our approach to international relationships.

As leaders in society, this body should accept responsibility for the culture we share. I urge each of you to vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS on this legislation.

Thank you,

Peter S. Morgan, Jr. (USCG / active duty '69 – '73)

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