

Benton Roe
Shapleigh
LD 1109

Good morning,

My name is Benton Roe, I am a veteran of the armed forces and served a combat tour in southern Afghanistan where I earned the Bronze Star Medal. I am writing in opposition to LD 1109.

LD 1109 is nothing more than a first step towards citizen disarmament and is as sinister as it is misguided. To date, there is no evidence that capacity restrictions have any effect on crime prevention. Capacity restrictions punish the law-abiding and enrich the abilities of those that are hell bent on criminal activity, since they will ignore the rule of law regardless.

LD 1109 is not enforceable in any way. It seeks to ban all types of ammunition feeding devices from tube-fed rifles to detachable box-style magazines. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, there are an estimated over 700 million magazines holding more than 10 rounds in this nation. To entertain a wild guess, since Maine is about one-half of a percent of the United States populace, even this state would have an estimated 3 million magazines holding over 10 rounds, or about twice as many magazines as people.

Examining LD 1109 against the 2008 District of Columbia v Heller decision, which established precedence that the 2nd Amendment protects arms in common use, I would say that having twice as many magazines holding more than 10 rounds in this state as people would make these items pretty common. That's about as common as a family having two vehicles, and probably more common than smartphone possession by most people since I don't know many people with more than two smartphones!

The authors of LD 1109 display pure ignorance of historical precedence of so called "high capacity" magazines. Obviously this bill's intent is to target the highly frightening AR15 or AK47, the classic intermediate-cartridge rifles, but it would also target rifles such as the 1860 Henry .44 caliber repeater, which was designed in yes, 1860.

The Henry rifle originally held 16 rounds in its tubular magazine, the likes of which LD 1109 seeks to ban. This "high capacity" weapon was in use by citizens and soldiers back when General Custer was defeated at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. With this example alone you have at least 165 years of historical precedence of the American citizen being armed with a weapon that carries more than 10 rounds in its feeding device.

There are many threads to pull on the pure evil of LD 1109 but I'll choose this one: there is no grandfathering provision contained in the bill language, only ultimatums. One might simply think that this is a careless omission, but the language gives the American citizen no choice but to give up their common-use magazines. What is the alternative? Confiscation? Historical precedence has shown that disarming a citizenry is an intentional act to put a nation's citizens at a distinct disadvantage and more able to be controlled. It reflects a government that thinks it is above its people.

I would note that there is an exception for military and law enforcement in this bill, so now we are creating a "caste" system of sorts where only the government holds the power. This also displays ignorance of basic small-arms history, as for hundreds of years the common American citizen has held more advanced small-arms technology and capability than the U.S. Infantry soldier. This fact has been true from the times of the American Revolution, when the humble "minute-man" was armed with a rifled-musket that could place accurate shots to twice the range of the smoothbore musket of the British military, all the way to modern times, where the military version of the M4 Carbine is far outshined by civilian AR15s and the advanced capabilities that they hold over their military counterparts.

LD 1109 cannot be passed in a free nation, we do not live in communist China and I

certainly did not serve in a war zone for this nation just to watch it's lawmakers forget that they serve the citizens, not the other way around. Our God-given right to keep and bear arms does not come with an asterisk of capacity limits or any other type of thing that the tyrants attempting this legislation fantasize about. Thank you for your time and God bless America!