

Dane Courtois
Hiram
LD 1126

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I stand before you as a Mainer resolute in my allegiance to liberty and the Second Amendment, imploring you to crush LD 1126 beneath the weight of its own folly. This bill—demanding serial numbers on every firearm and banning so-called “undetectable firearms”—is a grotesque overreach, a blatant affront to our rights, and a shameless attempt to shackle free citizens under the pretense of safety. It flies in the face of Supreme Court precedent and the very purpose of the Second Amendment: to arm us as a militia against tyranny and chaos. This travesty must be eradicated before it stains Maine’s proud legacy.

We are a state of grit and independence—from the trappers of Washington County to the shipbuilders of Bath. Since 2015, constitutional carry has affirmed that our right to bear arms needs no state-issued stamp of approval. Yet LD 1126 barrels in, mandating serial numbers and outlawing “undetectable” guns—whatever that vague nonsense means—trying to choke our freedom with red tape. This isn’t protection; it’s the government peddling our birthright back to us, branding our tools like cattle. Who enforces this? Some pencil-pusher in Augusta who’s never held a rifle in the wilds of Aroostook or faced a threat in Sanford? The sheer gall of it is infuriating, and the logic is laughably absent.

The Second Amendment stands firm: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” Its purpose is us—the people—armed as a militia to repel any enemy, be it a criminal in Portland or a despot eyeing our shores. The Supreme Court’s *Dist. of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) nailed it: the right to bear arms is individual, tied to self-defense and beyond. Then *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022) doubled down: restrictions must match historical tradition, not fleeting fears. Show me the Founding-era law demanding serial numbers or banning homemade guns—there isn’t one. LD 1126 mocks these rulings, hobbling our militia with bureaucratic chains and banning arms that history never questioned.

This “undetectable firearms” bogeyman is pure fiction—plastic guns sneaking past metal detectors are a Hollywood myth, not a Maine reality. And serial numbers? They’re a tracking scheme, a step toward confiscation, not crime-fighting. Maine’s law-abiding gun owners—crafting rifles in garages in Skowhegan or carrying in Rumford—aren’t the villains. Our crime rate’s a whisper; 2023 saw more lobster trap disputes than gun deaths. An armed populace keeps it that way—a hunter in Oxford or a shopkeep in Biddeford with a trusty piece signals we’re no easy mark. States like Alaska, free of this idiocy, prove liberty works—*Heller* and *Bruen* say we keep effective arms, not tagged trinkets. LD 1126 guts that, leaving us defenseless while sheriffs lag in vast Hancock or Sagadahoc.

This bill is a sham, harassing the upright while criminals scoff and smith their own. Permitting was a racket, making us pay for our rights; now LD 1126 piles on, branding our militia gear like it’s state property. It’s a power grab in sheep’s clothing, spitting on *Heller* and *Bruen*’s clear edicts.

I demand the Judiciary Committee obliterate LD 1126. Maine’s might is its free, armed citizens—don’t let this ludicrous bill bind us. We are the militia, backed by the Constitution and the Court, and we’ll keep our arms untagged and unbowed. Kill this outrage and uphold our liberty. Thank you for your serious attention.

Sincerely,
Dane Courtois