

Dane Courtois
Hiram
LD 1137

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I stand as a Mainer, fierce in my devotion to liberty, property rights, and the Second Amendment, urging you to ram LD 1137 through with the force it deserves. This bill—extending landowner liability protections to sport shooting ranges—is a righteous shield for free men and women, a long-overdue defense of our autonomy against meddling busybodies and lawsuit-happy leeches. It’s a brick wall against state overreach and a salute to the armed citizenry that keeps Maine strong. Pass this, or you’re spitting on the very freedoms that define us.

Maine’s blood runs thick with independence—from the hunters of Aroostook to the marksmen of York. My land is my castle, my rights are my steel, and the Second Amendment is my creed: “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” Sport shooting ranges—where we hone our skills, train our kin, and honor that right—aren’t just hobbies; they’re the beating heart of a free, armed populace. LD 1137 builds on Title 14, Section 159-A, which already shields landowners who open their property for recreation from frivolous suits. Adding shooting ranges makes damn sense—why should a patriot in Rumford or a farmer in Skowhegan fear a judge’s gavel for letting folks practice the very liberty that keeps tyrants at bay?

Property rights are sacred—my dirt, my rules. If I want a range in my backyard in Biddeford or a firing line in the woods of Brewer, that’s my call, not Augusta’s. But without LD 1137, every stray shot or whiner with a grudge could drag me into court, bleeding my wallet dry for daring to exercise my rights. Maine’s liability law already protects hunting, fishing, and hiking—shooting’s no different; it’s recreation with a purpose, tied to self-defense and the militia spirit of our founders. This bill slams the door on parasites who’d sue me for their own stupidity, letting me open my land without fear of the state or its litigants turning my generosity into a noose.

And don’t swallow the “safety” tripe from the other side. An armed, trained citizenry—honed at ranges—is our bulwark. In 2023, Maine’s crime stayed low while our gun owners stood tall; ranges in places like Sanford or Caribou churn out shooters who deter trouble, not cause it. The state’s got no business punishing me for fostering that strength—our sheriffs in vast Knox or Lincoln counties can’t be everywhere, and I won’t be left defenseless because some soft-handed fool trips over a shell casing.

LD 1137 frees me to build that strength, not cower under a lawyer’s shadow.

This bill’s a lifeline against a government itching to control every inch of my life. Property’s not a privilege to be taxed and sued into submission—it’s my domain, and the Second Amendment backs my right to arm it. States like Texas shield their range owners; Maine should too. LD 1137 says I can stand my ground, not just with a gun but with my land, free from the state selling my rights back to me through legal traps.

I demand the Judiciary Committee drive LD 1137 home. Maine’s might is its free, armed landowners—don’t let fear of lawsuits choke our ranges or our liberty. This bill’s a fortress for property and the Second Amendment; build it, and let us thrive. Thank you for honoring this hard truth.

Sincerely,
Dane Courtois