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LD 1109

I am in strong opposition to LD 1109, “An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices.” This bill is not a safety measure — it is an overreaching gun control effort disguised as a solution to public safety. The bill aims to criminalize the possession of widely used firearm components, including magazines that are essential to the operation of modern firearms, and it does so under the false premise of reducing gun violence.

The bill’s definition of “large-capacity ammunition feeding device” is vague and problematic, capturing not only modern rifle magazines but also fixed magazine systems in traditional firearms that have been manufactured for over 100 years and passed down through generations of law-abiding citizens. There is no consideration for the thousands of Mainers who legally use these components for hunting, sport, and personal defense, and treasure the antique firearms that would be affected under this law. While the bill does not explicitly classify magazines as accessories, it implies they are non-essential components, which is a dangerous misrepresentation. A magazine is not just an accessory — it is an integral part of most firearms.

This bill is part of a broader effort to restrict gun ownership incrementally by targeting essential firearm components and tools. It places law-abiding citizens at risk of new criminal penalties while doing nothing to address the real problem — violent offenders who ignore the law.

LD 1109 does not improve public safety. It punishes responsible gun owners under the guise of regulation, without any proven impact on crime. It fails to target criminals, who do not follow laws, and instead undermines the constitutional rights of Mainers.

I strongly urge the committee to reject LD 1109. Maine needs targeted, effective policies to address crime — not laws that limit personal freedom and infringe on constitutional rights.