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Friendship  
LD 1137

### 1137 An Act to Expand Landowner Liability Protections to Include Sport Shooting Ranges

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, Members of the committee, I am David Souers. I live in Friendship, Maine. I am a retired healthcare facility architect from a family that owned, collected and used firearms as a hobby, and for recreation, target practice, hunting and protecting our agriculture from certain wildlife, in compliance with a variety of laws protecting ourselves and others for the types of firearms, locations and use.

My wife and I are in opposition to LD 1137 for several reasons:

1. The description of this activity is quite broad and unlimited with varying implications. The definition indicates this problem: "Sport shooting" means engaging in archery, skeet and trap shooting or other similar shooting sports and the shooting of rifles, shotguns and pistols."

a. "Sport shooting" does not describe the extent of this activity nor where it might occur in terms of proximity to public roads, neighboring properties and houses, size of property, etc where it might conflict with and cause greater risk.

b. Archery is quite different from all other mentioned shooting with firearms. Archery involves far less range and potential for injury to the individual archer, on the range or beyond, which makes it generally more safe with less risk.

c. All firearms involve greater range and greater risk to safety both on the range and beyond.

d. Even the variation of gun types mentioned offer more or less risk both on and beyond the range.

e. Firearms are loud noise generators, particularly as the numbers of shooters firing increases.

2. This law might be assumed, or used to establish, or to extend rights for a shooting range in locations that may have zoning or other requirements that do not permit shooting ranges, or where neighbors and the public may object for good reason.

3. There is no determination as to how large a range might be included. A small private range for use by a family is one risk. As a range becomes larger for the general public with more shooters becomes a greater risk both on the range and beyond.

4. Shooting in itself is a greater, different and more deadly risk with data to show this than all other activities in the current law being modified. In fact there is no commonality with the other activities except being outdoors.

5. The concept of limiting liability for any hazardous activity is unreasonable and unfair for those who may be injured. What is the reason for asking for limiting liability? Where does the limiting of liability stop. If a landowner wants to permit hazardous activities, they absolutely take full responsibility, accountability and be liable for all consequences and damages as every other Mainer must or should take with their property and activities.

6. The current law providing "limited liability for injury" should never have been passed and should never be expanded. The concept is irresponsible.

Mainer's individual rights and privileges should never override nor reduce our shared rights and responsibilities to live safely without threats and nuisances.

I advocate that LD 1137 ought not to pass.