

Richard Ples  
Mount Vernon  
LD 1463

To the Maine House Judiciary Committee  
From: Richard J Ples  
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Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Let me say this plainly: LD 1463 is an insult to Maine taxpayers, to responsible gun owners, and to basic common sense. It's political theater disguised as policy — and Mainers see right through it. This bill wants to take perfectly good firearms — many worth hundreds, even thousands of dollars — and destroy them for no other reason than virtue signaling. Not sell them through legal channels. Not return value to the state. Just crush them. Melt them. Hire an "outside vendor" to carry out the waste. Who exactly is this helping? Certainly not taxpayers. Certainly not law-abiding citizens. Certainly not the state's finances.

We are not a rich state. We're rural, we're resourceful, and we expect our government to be the same. But this bill would burn public assets and then bill us for the matchstick. You could auction these firearms and put the money toward training, equipment, or hell, even roads. But no — this bill says, "Let's toss it all in the furnace and pay someone else to light it." You wouldn't run a bait shop this badly — let alone a state.

This bill doesn't stop crime. It doesn't prevent violence. It doesn't save lives. You know what it does? It makes lawmakers feel good while wasting time, money, and resources — all so they can check a box and say they "did something" about guns. But you didn't disarm criminals — you just disrespected citizens who follow the law.

We already have procedures for handling forfeited firearms safely and legally. There is zero public benefit to this bill. All it accomplishes is the destruction of value, the growth of government waste, and the widening of the disconnect between Augusta and real life in Maine.

LD 1463 is bad policy wrapped in bad optics. It's wasteful, performative, and patently disrespectful to the people of Maine. If this bill passes, it will not make us safer — but it will make us poorer, more divided, and more cynical about whether our government is even listening anymore. I strongly urge you to vote NO on LD 1463 — and to remember that Mainers don't take kindly to being treated like we're stupid!

Respectfully but seriously,  
Richard J Ples  
Mt Vernon, Maine