

Richard Shapiro
Brunswick
LD 1463

My name is Richard Shapiro, I live in Brunswick, and I am testifying against "L.D. 1463 An Act to Prohibit the Auctioning of State Surplus or Forfeited Firearms"

Please vote against this bill.

This proposal seems to hinge either on either:

1) the idea that guns having been once owned by someone who has fallen afoul of the law have picked up some kind of quasi-spiritual taint, and need to be destroyed lest they tempt law abiding Maine citizens into breaking the law like a cursed object from a horror novel

or

2) that guns are somehow so inherently evil that depriving the state of revenue, and possibly collectors of irreplaceable antiques, is somehow more virtuous than the selling of confiscated firearms to law abiding purchasers who have passed federal background checks.

This state is not only one of, if not the, safest state in the country – likely in part due to our high ownership rate for firearms. As you know, states with “lax” firearm laws tend to be safer than ones with “strict” firearm laws.

So, forcing the destruction of possibly valuable collector’s items out of spite is utterly pointless.

If anything, it suggests an attempt to erase guns from our culture, a position repugnant to our history and cultural identity, not to mention ludicrous, given the real world that we live in.