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**Maine Mayors Coalition Testimony on 1743,
An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms Within Their Municipal Buildings and
Voting Places and at Their Municipal Public Proceedings**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, the Maine Mayors Coalition is providing testimony in support of LD 1743, An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms Within Their Municipal Buildings and Voting Places and at Their Municipal Public Proceedings.

The Maine Mayors Coalition is a nonpartisan group representing the mayors of eleven Maine communities – Auburn, Bangor, Biddeford, Lewiston, Portland, Rockland, Saco, Sanford, South Portland, Waterville and Westbrook – and nearly 300,000 residents. The Coalition advocates on behalf of our citizens and municipalities for policies that recognize the vital services Maine cities provide and the positive impact Maine cities have on our state. The Coalition seeks to work in partnership with state and federal elected officials to meet the needs of Maine people.

Our Coalition stands in strong support of local control for Maine municipalities. This is one of the foundations of our state's system of government. Importantly for us, on municipal matters and local issues, it allows our cities to decide what is right, what is fair, and what is safe for our citizens and our communities.

LD 1743 would support local control for municipalities, giving us the ability to decide on the scope of activities permitted in our municipal buildings, voting places and public proceedings. Towns and cities would have the authority to establish our own orders, ordinances, policies or regulations regarding the presence of firearms in our respective facilities and at our meetings based upon each of our communities' unique circumstances and public safety concerns.

The Maine Mayors Coalition respectfully urges you to vote ought to pass on LD 1743 so our cities may determine how to best address this firearms issue.

Thank you for your time and attention.