



SAM-ILA

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Testimony in Opposition

LD 2086, An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Presented by David Trahan, Executive Director of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Institute for
Legislative Action

March 5, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is David Trahan. I am the Executive Director of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine - Institute for Legislative Action (SAM-ILA), testifying in opposition to LD 2086, An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms.

The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Institute for Legislative Action is in opposition to LD 2086, An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms. Currently forfeited firearms, with the exception of those used in homicides, are auctioned by the state and the proceeds support the state surplus office. We oppose this legislation because it assumes all firearms are evil and must be destroyed while ignoring the fact that individuals commit crimes, not firearms. Using the logic in this Bill, any weapon used in crimes, including hammers, bats, cars, gasoline, and the list goes on, should also be destroyed because they are evil, and their existence promotes crime.

As a former legislator that served on the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee for 12 years, I recognized that many wildlife crimes include forfeiting firearms, but are not felonies. In many cases, the firearms confiscated are family heirlooms, used by a family member that may belong to another family member and without their approval. These same family members often attend the confiscated firearm auctions and spend far beyond a firearm's value to reacquire a family heirloom.

Legislation like LD 2086 it's just part of a national agenda being pushed by gun control activists to depict firearms as evil, something that needs to be either destroyed or banned from the American population.

The SAM-ILA also opposes the amendment that appears to attempt to ban bump stocks. We are perplexed as to why this is being proposed just days after the Supreme Court of the United States heard arguments on this policy. The fact that this amendment is coming now while the court is about to issue their ruling, shows that it doesn't matter to the gun control activists whether something is constitutional or not.

Our organization has committed itself to working on public safety gun related legislation that can get the support of both parties. If this committee wants to work on legislation related to forfeited firearms and how the public could benefit from the money raised with the sale of forfeited firearms, we would be willing to talk. This bill sends the message that all guns are bad and must be destroyed. We oppose LD 2086 and hope this Committee will vote, ought not-to-pass.

Thank you,

David Trahan, Executive Director, SAM-ILA