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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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**Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary on
LD 953, An Act to Change the Definition of "Machine Gun" in the Maine
Criminal Code
March 26, 2025**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary: I am Dave Haggan and I have the honor of representing the people of Senate District 10, which includes three municipalities in Hancock County and nine municipalities in Penobscot County. I am pleased to present LD 953, *An Act to Change the Definition of "Machine Gun" in the Maine Criminal Code*.

This bill seeks to put Maine's definition of "Machine Gun" in accordance with federal law. To match federal statute, the new definition describes a weapon that shoots automatically more than one shot and includes parts of a machine gun or a combination of parts from which a machine gun could be assembled.

As you may recall, concerns regarding Maine's current definition were brought to the forefront last session when Second Amendment opponents sought to fundamentally change the law to outlaw commonly owned firearms and firearm parts. During that discussion, it was realized that Maine's current definition is poorly worded and could be misconstrued to ban shotguns, as they fire multiple projectiles through common shotgun loads, including birdshot.

Changing the use of "projectile" to "shot" in Maine law would more accurately define a "machine gun" and be in lockstep with federal law, ensuring there is no legal or statutory confusion in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration today. I encourage you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 953 and would be happy to answer any questions you may have but want to assure you there are people who will speak after me with much greater expertise on these issues.