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Opposition to LD1109: An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices

Members of the Committee, Representatives Beck, Cloutier, Doudera, Gramlich, Kuhn, Pugh, and Senator Carney,

I stand before you today to urge caution as you consider a ban on what some call high-capacity magazines—but which are, in truth, standard capacity magazines, commonly used by law-abiding citizens for self-defense and sport. I grew up in Aroostook County but lived in Colorado at a time when they enacted a similar ban in 2013.

Mass shootings still occur in Colorado because criminals, unsurprisingly, don't comply. What has resulted is not safer streets, but a slew of costly legal battles. Rocky Mountain Gun Owners challenged the ban for seven years in state court and then launched a federal suit in 2022. These fights have drained public resources—taxpayer dollars that could've gone to schools, roads, or healthcare—without proving the law saves lives. Given the current headlines about Maine's budget maladies, should we really be doing that?

Understand this: if you, as a legislator, look around at these hearings and see less and less gun owners here to testify against bills like these, it's not because you're gaining support for these laws. We work. We have commitments. Some of us travel from Aroostook and Washington Counties. For some of us, it's an 8 hour round trip with a possible hotel stay. I'm reasonably sure that if you held a hearing in Bangor on a Saturday morning, the attendance would look much different. In short, we're tired of you asking, because you never stop asking.

"Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall not be questioned." This isn't vague—it's a clear mandate. A ban like this doesn't just question that right—it undermines it, inviting inevitable legal challenges. And who pays for those? Maine taxpayers. Every lawsuit, every appeal, every court hour—it's our citizens footing the bill for a law that mirrors Colorado's, but is worse: symbolically bold, practically hollow, and absolutely tone deaf in consideration to the hard-working rural population of Maine that live inland of the coast.

I implore you: reject this proposal. Protect our constitutional rights, preserve our tax dollars, and learn from Colorado's misstep. Focus on solutions that work, not gestures that cost. Thank you.