

Mark Howes

Opposition of LD1126

An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms

Good day, members of the committee. I'm Mark Howes, and I urge you to reject LD 1126. This bill tramples on Maine citizens' rights under our Constitution, which declares the right to keep and bear arms 'shall never be questioned.' Requiring serial numbers on every firearm and part, plus banning so-called undetectable guns, isn't just overreach—it's a solution chasing a problem that doesn't exist here.

The courts have already weighed in. In *Defense Distributed v. United States Department of State* (2018), a federal settlement upheld the right to share 3D-printed gun plans, recognizing that private gun-making is protected under the Second Amendment. LD 1126's serial number mandates and background checks for homemade firearms clash with that, burdening law-abiding Mainers—like hobbyists or hunters crafting their own guns—with red tape.

Beyond all of this, I 3D print things. I'm not great at it, but it is something I do with two of my sons, who are both interested in becoming engineers. 3D printing takes skill, patience, and resources. If you think it is as easy as pushing a button, you're wrong. There are many, many revisions and modifications to be made to make something like this work. Personally, I've made gun-related items and none of them work well.

In addition, I have firearms that I've made with 80% lowers that I've milled myself. They don't have serial numbers. It's currently completely legal. If this bill passes, will I then have to register and serialize something I've already owned for 6 or 7 years? That I've never committed a crime with? That you've already taxed me for? I take great offense being made into a criminal by people that I pay taxes to. Please vote no on this bill.