



Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Institute for Legislative Action (SAM-ILA)
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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Institute for Legislative Action, (SAM-ILA) is testifying in support of L.D. 1009 - *An Act to Restore Full Civil Rights to Possess Firearms to Persons Previously Convicted of Certain Nonviolent Felony Crimes*.

We would like to thank Rep. Chad Perkins (R- Dover-Foxcroft) for introducing this important legislation. L.D. 1009 establishes a process for non-violent felons to petition the State of Maine to restore their rights. This petition process allows the Maine Department of Public Safety to review these requests on a case-by-case basis and issue a judgment regarding whether or not the individual should have their rights restored.

Recently, the Third Circuit court, in a landmark ruling, held that the felon-in-possession ban is unconstitutional as applied to those convicted of non-violent felonies, citing a lack of historical tradition disarming such individuals.

Whether you support or oppose firearm regulation, the laws passed by the Legislature are ultimately judged and determined by the Courts to be Constitutional or not. Ignoring Court rulings undermines public confidence in the rule of law. This is not the Marine Resources Committee, it is the Judiciary Committee, tasked with reviewing and implementing work of the Courts. Judicial procedures and civil rights.

The thing about Court rulings is, you may not agree with the court's opinion, but this Legislative committee, more than any other, has a duty and obligation to respect and preserve liberty, even when you disagree. This matter is easy to rectify, create a system for restitution of rights that balances public safety and liberty.

Respectfully,

David Trahan, Executive Director, SAM-ILA