

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is Margaret Bailey and I reside in Durham, Maine. I saw on a horse related Facebook page that two bills were coming up for hearing regarding Fireworks in Maine and I want to offer my strong support for LD 1307 which would ban the use of Fireworks in Maine. I don't believe the bill LD 1348 regulating fireworks around Working Farms would help me although it attempts to get at some of the problems horse owners experience with the law.

I own three horses and board a fourth on my farm and I derive no income from these horses. Indeed, every last penny I earn goes for the maintenance of my farm and my horses' care. My horses are afraid of fireworks and I have had several close calls injuring myself attempting to get them safely indoors when the fireworks start. I never know when they might go off. A Tuesday afternoon just to practice before 4<sup>th</sup> of July or an unexpected birthday celebration of which I had no warning. I spend most holiday evenings in my barn trying to keep the animals calm while WWIII goes on around us. Horses when they are scared can cause themselves and others serious harm and one only needs to google the poor horse that died last July 4<sup>th</sup> in Yarmouth to realize they are at high risk when fireworks are nearby.

I have even tried boarding my horses for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend at a farm in Falmouth because there was less risk of fireworks there. It is expensive and time consuming and I don't think I should be driven from my home because someone derives pleasure out of disrupting the neighborhood.

Interestingly, we can't legally drive a car with a loud muffler in Maine

*[Title 29-A §1912. Mufflers A person may not operate a motor vehicle unless that vehicle is equipped with an adequate muffler properly maintained to prevent excessive or unusual noise.]*

but the Legislature made it legal to create ear splitting noise whenever the spirit moves someone to set off fireworks. I might add, restricting the hours they can set them off does me no service because they flaunt the law and I still have no warning when they might be going off.

What this repeal legislation comes down to is whose rights will take precedence. Does a person have the right to disrupt a whole neighborhood, damage livestock, cause untold misery to pets merely because they derive pleasure from creating loud noises or will the rights of a homeowner to safely enjoy their property prevail?

Thank you for your consideration.