



**RETAIL
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May 7, 2021

Senator Susan Deschambault, Chair
Representative Charlotte Warren, Chair
Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

RE: Testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 1307, An Act to Restrict the Sale, Purchase and Use of Fireworks in the State, and LD 1348, An Act to Limit the Decibel Level of Fireworks Near Working Farms

Dear Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

My name is Curtis Picard and I am the President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine. I am a resident of Topsham. We have more than 350 members statewide and represent retailers of all sizes including some of the fireworks retailers. Maine's retailers employ more than 85,000 Mainers. I am here today to testify in opposition to both LD 1307 and LD 1348.

Since 2011, fireworks became legal to sell in Maine. There was a long stakeholder process that helped set the regulation around their sale and the retailers who sell these products have done an excellent job complying with those regulations, and educating consumers on their use. Simply LD 1307 would close businesses, and put people out of work. On the heels of the most difficult 14+ months, we should be supporting our businesses and getting people back to work, not shutting them down. I understand some people do not like these products, but the focus would be better served on regulating when and where people can use them.

For LD 1348, I have no idea how anyone can accurately measure the decibel level of a firework near a livestock farm. How would this proposal be enforced? Municipalities already have the authority to better regulate the use of fireworks and those communities that have a large number of farms or livestock already have the ability to restrict their use.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts with you.

Sincerely,

Curtis Picard, CAE, President and CEO