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Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee Members:

Please note my support for LD 1307 “ An Act To Restrict the Sale, Purchase and Use of Fireworks in the State”.

I am a disabled veteran of the United States Air Force and chose to re-locate from San Antonio, Texas to the State of Maine several years ago. I made that decision after visiting Maine numerous times over the course of my career for a variety of reasons, not the least being the overwhelming beauty, peace and tranquility Maine offers its citizens. It is an incredibly beautiful State and I do not regret my decision.

I do however regret the enactment in 2012 of the consumer fireworks statute. I can find no reason whatsoever for allowing consumers unfettered access to fireworks throughout the entire year, day after day, all day until 10 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. on certain days--why? The peace I had hoped to continue to enjoy here has frankly been shattered with the random booming of fireworks over the quiet bay on which I live throughout the year. I am a veteran of several wars and over the course of my career, was subjected to the same explosive sounds as I now hear in my formerly quiet neighborhood, increasing my anxiety. My right to enjoy my property in this rural area has literally turned into a day by day hope not to hear what sound like very large combustible fireworks.

I was so heartened to learn of the proposed act to restrict the sale, purchase and use of fireworks and fervently hope it will be endorsed and supported by your committee. Thank you.