

John Lenotte
Denmark
LD 1109

Dear Committee Members,

As a retired law enforcement officer (municipal, county & federal) , I stand firmly against the proposed ban on large-capacity ammunition feeding devices. My position is grounded in both the demonstrated safety of our state and the constitutional rights of our citizens.

First and foremost, Maine consistently ranks as one of the safest states in the United States, with some of the lowest violent crime rates in the nation. This is no accident. Our state has fostered a culture of responsible gun ownership, which has played a significant role in ensuring public safety. The vast majority of gun owners in Maine are law-abiding citizens who follow the law and use firearms responsibly. A ban on large-capacity ammunition feeding devices would unjustly punish these individuals without providing a meaningful impact on reducing crime or enhancing public safety.

There is no empirical evidence to suggest that large-capacity ammunition feeding devices are a direct contributor to violent crime or mass shootings in Maine or elsewhere. Criminals intent on violence often disregard laws that restrict firearms or magazines, and banning large-capacity ammunition feeding device would likely only impact those who legally own firearms and have no intention of committing crimes. In fact, Maine's low crime rate suggests that laws targeting responsible gun owners are unnecessary and counterproductive.

Additionally, such a ban infringes upon the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, which guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms. The Supreme Court has consistently ruled that the Second Amendment protects individual gun ownership and use. Any law that seeks to restrict that right—whether by limiting the number of rounds a magazine can hold or any other measure—should be subject to strict scrutiny. The notion that banning large-capacity ammunition feeding devices could be justified as a means of public safety is far outweighed by the need to preserve the constitutional rights of our citizens.

As a law enforcement officer, my responsibility was to protect and serve the citizens of Maine and our country. I believe that enforcing laws that respect constitutional rights while promoting safety is essential to maintaining the trust and cooperation of the community. Instead of enacting bans that target legal gun owners, we should focus on supporting law enforcement, improving mental health resources, and addressing the root causes of violence.

In conclusion, large-capacity ammunition feeding device ban is not a solution to the issues we face in Maine, nor is it an effective strategy for enhancing public safety. Maine's status as one of the safest states in the nation speaks volumes about our approach to responsible gun ownership, and any attempt to infringe upon our citizens' rights would not only be unconstitutional but also counterproductive to maintaining the peace and safety of our communities.

I urge lawmakers to consider these facts and reject the proposed ban on large-capacity ammunition feeding devices.

Sincerely,
John Lenotte
Retired ~ Officer/Agent
US Department of Homeland Security