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LD 1126

I write in strong opposition to LD 1126, which seeks to criminalize the possession or transfer of unserialized firearms, including homemade and 3D-printed firearms, as well as certain firearm parts.

While this bill is framed as an effort to address so-called “ghost guns,” it goes far beyond that scope, unfairly targeting law-abiding firearm owners and hobbyists. Federal law already requires all commercially manufactured firearms to be serialized when sold by licensed dealers. However, LD 1126 overreaches by imposing criminal penalties on individuals who legally manufacture firearms for personal use—something that has long been a lawful and accepted practice in the United States.

For centuries, Americans have had the right to build firearms for personal use without serialization, provided they are not transferred or sold. LD 1126 would strip away this long-standing tradition, criminalizing individuals simply for crafting their own firearms—an act that has never been inherently linked to crime.

Additionally, the bill presents serious enforcement challenges. Its broad and unclear restrictions on "firearm frames or receivers" leave ambiguity regarding which components would be considered illegal. This vagueness risks over criminalizing hobbyists, machinists, and collectors who legally work with firearm components for sport, education, or historical interest.

Beyond the legal and practical issues, LD 1126 infringes upon personal privacy and self-reliance. Law-abiding citizens should not be required to seek government approval or registration to engage in a long-standing tradition of craftsmanship—especially in a state like Maine that values constitutional carry and individual responsibility.

I urge the committee to reject LD 1126. This bill introduces unnecessary legal uncertainty, penalizes responsible gun owners, and imposes excessive restrictions that go beyond federal requirements. Maine should not turn law-abiding citizens into criminals for exercising their historical and constitutional rights.