Richard "RJ" Ples Mount Vernon LD 1378

To The Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I submit this testimonial in fierce and unapologetic opposition to LD 1378!

This bill is not about protecting Maine communities. It is a blatant assault on our Constitution and due process! Extreme Risk Protection Orders—so-called "red flag" laws—are nothing more than state-sanctioned weaponry aimed at disarming citizens without charge, without warning, and without even the basic right to defend themselves in court beforehand.

LD 1378 proposes that your rights can be stripped away not because of what you've done, but because of what someone claims you might do. That's not law. That's a dystopian fantasy. Under this bill, Mainers can have their homes raided and their firearms seized based on hearsay and vendettas. No trial. No conviction. Just a rubber stamp from a judge and your rights vanish!

This is a direct path to tyranny. It opens the floodgates for abuse—by bitter exes, political enemies, and ideologues who despise gun owners! It flips the burden of proof and forces innocent people to grovel to get their rights back. That is not justice. That is state-sponsored persecution.

And don't insult Maine citizens' intelligence by calling it a "tool." This bill is a Trojan horse for authoritarianism! Today it targets the Second Amendment. Tomorrow it will target your speech, your religion, your privacy. The same political machine that locked down businesses and masked children now wants the power to raid your home in the name of "safety."

LD 1378 will not stop evil. It will not stop violence. What it will do is punish innocent people, erode public trust, and hand the government unchecked power over the very people it is meant to serve.

I urge you—no, I demand of you—defend the Constitution. Defend the rights of your fellow Mainers. Reject this dangerous, disgraceful bill.

Thank you.