

Steven Farr
Troy

Dear Committee Members,

As a citizen of the State of Maine, I am writing to urge you to recommend passage of either LD 1039 or LD 608. In a democratic society, any change of law -- prohibiting something that was once legal, or required something that was previously not required -- needs to be done by the people's representatives, not by the executive branch. I understand the need for the chief executive to have temporary power to deal with crisis situations, but the Governor's emergency powers should be restricted to short periods of decisive action, which are then promptly reviewed by the legislative branch rather than becoming a long-term status quo. This is not so much about COVID-19 as it is about the fundamental principles of democracy; I would be content if the legislature had voted to enact all of the current restrictions, but I feel that it is inappropriate to give such legislative power to the executive branch. Thank you for considering this perspective in your deliberations.

Sincerely,
Steve Farr