

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

May 3, 2021

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you regarding Legislative Document 1454 (LD 1454), an act to prohibit untraceable and undetectable firearms. On behalf of the National Rifle Association, I would like to express our opposition to this legislation.

The hand-making of firearms is a tradition that goes back before the founding of our country. Law-abiding firearm enthusiasts should be free to engage in their craft free of government overreach, as all other types of craftsmen are. The language in this bill is vague and sets up a conflicting regime that lacks definitions and exceptions found in the federal "undetectable firearms" law. The bill creates a new class of crimes related to "untraceable" guns. The definition of "untraceable firearm" lacks certainty and is likely unenforceable. In addition, the bill will criminalize items and activities that are legal under federal law.

The proponents of the bill will argue that homemade guns constitute a loophole in current law that allows criminals to own firearms. However, that argument fails to recognize that prohibited persons already cannot lawfully possess any firearm, whether home built or produced by a licensed manufacturer. Therefore, LD 1454 does nothing to prevent prohibited persons from obtaining firearms. Given the absence of any public benefits, we can only conclude that the intent of this bill is to unfairly punish law-abiding gun owners and enthusiasts for their legal interests.

There is reason to believe that the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is now taking active steps to revise the federal law and restrict unfinished frames and receivers, consistent with President Biden's comments on April 8th. This would make any state law on such items unnecessary.

On behalf of the thousands of NRA members in Maine, I urge you to oppose this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren E. LePage".

Lauren E. LePage, Esq.
State Director, NRA-ILA