



MAINE LEGISLATURE

STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

February 2024

Thomas Millner, CEO, Bass Pro Shops
Tyler Avery, General Manager
Cabela's - Bass Pro Shops
100 Cabela's Blvd
Scarborough, ME 04074

Dear Cabela's – Bass Pro Shops Leadership:

We are writing to request that Cabela's stops selling military-style semi-automatic weapons, commonly referred to as assault rifles.

The horrific loss of life in Lewiston on Oct. 25, 2023 from such a legally purchased weapon is a wakeup call to all of us in Maine that a mass casualty shooting can happen here. We all need to do our part to make sure it does not happen again. Doing nothing is simply not acceptable. As one of the nation's most successful outdoor enthusiast businesses, making this decision will help Maine heal.

You would set an example for other outdoor retailers in Maine to join you in this concrete, common-sense change – just as Walmart did when it banned these weapons for sale in all of their stores nationwide.¹ LL Bean² and Dick's Sporting Goods³ have also demonstrated leadership by choosing not to sell military-style semi-automatic weapons.

When entering your Scarborough, Maine, store, one only needs to enter the Hunting Department to see the rows of military-style weapons – a painful reminder that a man used one of these weapons to kill 18 citizens of our state. As Maine's only Cabela's location, pulling out all the stops to bring a serious outdoor experience to Mainers and visitors alike can include positive outdoor enthusiasts' experiences while also doing your part to keep Mainers safe.

¹ Walmart stopped selling assault-style weapons in 2015 and ended its sales of rifles [like the AR-15 in 2015](#), raised the minimum age to buy firearms and ammunition from 18 to 21 in 2018, and discontinued the sale of short-barrel rifle ammunition, such as .223 and 5.56 caliber rounds used in large-capacity magazines on military-style weapons, in 2019.

www.cbsnews.com/news/walmart-open-carry-policy-walmart-to-stop-selling-certain-ammunition-and-asks-customers-not-to-openly-carry-guns/

² LL Bean does not sell assault-style weapons and, in 2018, announced it would no longer sell rifles or ammunition to anyone under the age of 21.

www.nbcboston.com/news/local/maine-based-ll-bean-raises-age-rifle-purchase/126738/

³ Dick's Sporting Goods announced in 2018 it would end sales of assault-style weapons.
money.cnn.com/2018/02/28/news/companies/dicks-weapon-ban/index.html

On your website, you note: “Remember - Maine is one of America's premier outdoor destinations and we are here to help you take that a step further!” Please take this step further. We urge you to focus your inventory and display space on living up to this intention – by supporting the hunters and sportspeople of Maine and those visiting here, and by ceasing the sale of military-style weapons intended for war.

You will not be alone in working to heal our community after the horrific murders in Lewiston. We in the Legislature are working now to find ways to strengthen our laws to protect our communities from gun violence. But we cannot do this work alone.

Together, we can continue to live up to Maine’s motto of “Dirigo” – which means “I lead” – and show America that, in the wake of such a tragedy as took place in Lewiston, we can lead the way in preserving and protecting our communities from future gun violence.

Sincerely,

Lori K. Gramlich
State Representative

Dan Ankeles
State Representative

Poppy Arford
State Representative

Art Bell
State Representative

Jim Boyle
State Representative

Michael Brennan
State Representative

Bill Bridgeo
State Representative

Ben Collings
State Representative

Lydia Crafts
State Representative

Margaret Craven
State Representative

Ed Crockett
State Representative

Deqa Dhalac
State Representative

Janice S. Dodge
State Representative

Vicki Doudera
State Representative

Holly Eaton
State Representative

Drew Gattine
State Representative

Valli Geiger
State Representative

Cheryl Golek
State Representative

Rebecca Jauch
State Representative

Christopher Kessler
State Representative

Amy Kuhn
State Representative

Michel A. Lajoie
State Representative

Grayson Lookner
State Representative

Marc Malon
State Representative

Kristi Mathieson
State Representative

Michele Meyer
State Representative

Rebecca Millett
State Representative

Nina Milliken
State Representative

Matt Moonen
State Representative

Steve Moriarty
State Representative

Kelly Noonan Murphy
State Representative

Margaret O'Neil
State Representative

Laurie Osher
State Representative

Anne Perry
State Representative

Jane Pringle
State Representative

Ambureen Rana
State Representative

Gerry Runte
State Representative

Melanie Sachs
State Representative

Holly Sargent
State Representative

Dan Sayre
State Representative

Kathy Shaw
State Representative

Charles Skold
State Representative

Holly Stover
State Representative

Laura Supica
State Representative

Sophie Warren
State Representative

Bruce White
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Samuel Lewis Zager
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