

April 10, 2008

ONTP - LD 2309, "An Act To Enhance the Security of State Credentials"

Sen. Damon, Rep. Marley and members of the Transportation Committee,

I'm speaking for myself and Peace Action Maine, the state's largest peace organization. Peace Action Maine has worked for 25 years to promote peace through grassroots organizing, citizen education, and issue advocacy.

1) Peace Action Maine believes a driver's license should be about competency to operate a motor vehicle. If Maine wants to issue national identity papers, that is a separate issue and is not to be conflated with driver's licenses.

2) The logic that one should deny a driver's license to an illegal alien is the same logic that one should deny a loaf of bread to an illegal alien, or a driver's license and loaf of bread to those behind on their credit card payments, of a different faith or sexual orientation.

3) Others will speak to how RealID violates every single article in the Bill of Rights. **About how it changes the presumption of innocence to a presumption of guilt.** Consider the role RealID plays in building a checkpoint society. Where every transaction is monitored and subject to approval. When I recently purchased solar collectors, both I and the vendor were run through the terrorist database. This government has no business knowing my business. Nor does it have the right to deputize any other entity - Androscoggin Savings, Hannaford or Verizon - to monitor my goings on without a proper warrant.

4) Verizon. Despite the President boasting about breaking the law, Maine caved in the dispute between Verizon, the PUC and the NSA. What do you think - as a legislator - every time you make a cell phone call and know that the Legislature caved on a "paramount interest" of the state? Why do I bring that up, you wonder?

Lawbreaking at the top. 1000 signing statements. Caesar crossing the Rubicon. At every level it's met with appeasement, appeasement, appeasement. When I ran for Governor two years ago I spoke about how one Governor from one state, refusing to deploy the Guard or ordering it home could have turned this country around. Now it's RealID and there are 16 states. Two years ago this very same Legislature voted nearly unanimously to refuse to implement RealID. Is Maine going to tuck its tail between its legs and cede every bit of its integrity as a state?

I fear it will, for the statute protecting the privacy of drivers' license data is the same that failed to prevent the wiretapping.

Peace Action Maine asks the Legislature and the Governor to fulfill their moral and ethical duty to the people of Maine - to preserve the sovereign integrity of Maine as a state - and to reject this legislation Ought Not To Pass.

"No. Nope. No way and hell no."

Sincerely,

/Christopher F. Miller/

Christopher F. Miller
Director, Peace Action Maine