

Town of Steuben
Washington County, Maine
Commercial Rocket Launch Ordinance

Section 1. Title. This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the "Commercial Rocket Launch Ordinance of the Town of Steuben.

Section 2. Authority. The ordinance is adopted pursuant to the Town's Home Rule Authority, provided to it by the Maine Constitution and 30-A M.R.S. § 3001.

Section 3. Applicability. This Ordinance applies to the entire town of Steuben, including without limitation its islands and any waterways located within the designated boundaries of the Town.

Section 4. Purpose and Intent. The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate commercial rocket launches performed by any person, company, or other enterprise including Maine Space Corporation and U.S. Space Force within the confines of the Town of Steuben. The intent is to protect property, and the health, safety, welfare, and livelihood of the people of Steuben by furthering and maintaining safe and healthful environmental conditions, protecting commercial fishing and related marine industries, conserving the natural beauty of the area, protecting water quality, and protecting wildlife and endangered species and their habitat.

Section 5. Standards.

- A. Commercial Rocket Launches are not permitted to be conducted within the boundaries of the Town of Steuben. This prohibition also applies to the retrieval of launch vehicles or payloads within the boundaries of the Town of Steuben.
- B. Spaceports, launch sites, command and control facilities, manufacturing facilities, assembly facilities, fuel storage facilities, rocket land transport vehicles, marine transport vehicles, lift-boat transport and launch vehicles, exclusion areas on land or coastal waters for launch and recovery are not permitted to be established in Steuben.
- C. No permits will be accepted nor any permits granted for any purpose to circumvent this Ordinance.

Section 6. Exemption.

- A. This Ordinance shall not be construed in any way to discourage or prohibit non-commercial rockets launched for education purposes by local schools, or for personal or hobbyist rocket launches provided that the rocket launched is not greater than a Class 1 Model Rocket in accordance with 14 CFR 101.22(a).

Section 7. Relationship with Other Ordinances. Whenever a provision of this Ordinance is inconsistent with another provision of any other ordinance, regulation, or statute, the more restrictive provision shall control.

Section 8. Severability. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared invalid or void, the remaining provisions shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 9. Enforcement. The Code Enforcement Officer is authorized and shall have the authority to enforce all provisions of this Ordinance, including obtaining fines, injunctive relief, and reasonable attorney fees and costs pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. § 4452.

Section 10. Definitions used in this Ordinance:

Commercial Rocket Launches: A rocket of Class 2 or higher, as defined in 14 CFR Parts 401, 411, 413, 415, and 417 as appropriate, which is used to launch satellites or other payloads into space, either sub-orbital or into orbit, for testing, research, commercial or military purposes, whether done for profit or non-profit.

Aerospace Industry: Any commercial or military facilities, including spaceports, launch sites, command centers, workforce housing, offices, exclusion or retrieval areas located on land or in, on or under coastal waters that involve or support the development, launch, reentry, or retrieval of flight vehicles or payloads in air or space, and are subject to the licensing and permitting power of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Person: A natural person, partnership, association, company, corporation, limited liability company or organization or a manager, agent, owner, director, servant, officer or employee thereof.

Enterprise: A company or business organization engaged in the buying, selling or transfer of goods or services, whether for profit or non-profit.

Section 11. Amendments.

- A. An amendment to this Ordinance may be initiated by the Municipal Officers, provided a majority of them have so voted, or by written petition with enough signatures equal to at least ten percent (10%) of votes cast in the municipality at the last gubernatorial election.
- B. The Municipal Officers shall hold a public hearing on the proposed amendment. Notification of the hearing shall be posted and advertised in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing.
- C. An amendment to this Ordinance shall be adopted by a majority vote of a Town Meeting.

Section 12. Effective Date. This ordinance will be enacted on Mar 11, 2025, following the approval by the Voters of the Town of Steuben and shall take effect immediately thereafter.

_____, Selectman

_____, Selectman

_____, Selectman

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF STEUBEN, MAINE

ADOPTED BY THE TOWN OF STEUBEN AT A TOWN MEETING HELD ON Mar 11, 2025.

Attested by Town Clerk: _____