



May 5, 2023

Senator Craig Hickman
Representative Laura Supica
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04330

**RE: LD 1695, An Act to Provide for the Direct Shipment of
Spirits to Consumers**

To the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

Per a question asked at the public hearing last week, I appreciate the opportunity to share this list of advantages and disadvantages of a state control system for the sale of spirits in Maine.

PROs

- State revenue: Alcohol sales tend to have a solid profit margin for the state, which means that control states can earn a decent amount of revenue. This capital is then put back into the community to help improve public education and provide affordable healthcare.
- Support and education for alcohol programs: Control states can use the revenue generated from liquor sales to support and educate people about alcohol programs.
- Promoting moderate consumption: Control states can promote moderate consumption by controlling the distribution and pricing of alcoholic beverages.
- Reduced alcohol-related problems: Control states can help reduce alcohol-related problems by controlling the distribution and pricing of alcoholic beverages.

- Better public health: The revenue generated from liquor sales can be used to provide better education and health facilities to the residents at a reasonable cost.
- Reduced crime rates: Control states can help reduce crime rates by controlling the distribution and pricing of alcoholic beverages.
- Better regulation: Control states can regulate the sale of alcohol more effectively than private businesses.
- Agency store partnership: Control states create a valuable commitment to Maine based business and supports local communities.
- Uniform pricing throughout the state: This ensures fair pricing in rural communities.

CONS

- Possibility for limited choices for consumers: Because the government controls the distribution and pricing of alcoholic beverages, consumers may have limited choices when it comes to purchasing alcohol.
- Difficult for new distilleries: Because control states have a strict licensing process, it can be difficult for new distilleries to meet requirements. As a result, they may not prioritize applying for liquor licenses in control states.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. RSVP remains supportive of our existing control state model, and opposed to the bill as currently drafted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Newell A. Augur".

Newell A. Augur

Newell Augur
RSVP
LD 1695

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