



May 5, 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Maine State Legislature  
Augusta, ME

Dear Chair Brenner, Chair Gramlich, and committee members:

On behalf of the National Automatic Merchandising Association (NAMA) and our state affiliate, the New England Refreshment Services Association (NERSA), I ask you to oppose LD 1418: An Act Concerning Single-use Disposable Water Bottles and Water Refill Stations, which would harm the drink choices available to consumers, whether adopted as introduced or as amended to prohibit sales of water bottles on state or capitol grounds.

NAMA represents the United States convenience services industry, with its core membership comprised of owners and operators of vending machines and micro markets, office coffee/tea/water, and pantry services providers, as well as the manufacturers of refrigerated vending machines. NERSA represents an industry that employs over 600 Mainers, contributes over \$13 million in taxes, and is responsible for over \$120 million in annual economic impact in Maine.

We applaud the Legislature's desire to improve sustainability. Our industry has been a leading voice in the phaseout of hydrofluorocarbon refrigerants in vending machines. The industry has almost completely transitioned to new, advanced refrigerants with almost no global warming potential, and we continue to partner with the US Department of Energy to research and develop more environmentally friendly refrigerant solutions.

However, prohibiting the sale of water bottles will limit consumer choice and access in state facilities. Visitors to the capitol, to state universities, and to other state buildings and grounds frequently do not bring their own bottles, so a ban on the sale of individual bottles would eliminate their ability to have a convenient source of water by their side throughout the day.

Our industry is also committed to increasing healthy options in vending. NAMA members have pledged to increase the percentage of better-for-you food and beverage options to 33% over three years, which represents a nearly 40% increase over initial levels. Unfortunately, this ban would prohibit our members from offering one of our healthiest beverages – water.

On behalf of NAMA and NERSA, we ask for an Ought Not to Pass committee vote. Thank you for your consideration, and please contact me at [mhogg@namanow.org](mailto:mhogg@namanow.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Hogg". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael Hogg  
Manager, State Affairs  
National Automatic Merchandising Association