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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES  
BUREAU OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND LOTTERY OPERATIONS

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Testimony of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations  
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Neither For Nor Against LD 1033  
An Act to Regulate Alcoholic Beverage Competitions

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs: I am Louis Luchini and I'm the Director of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. We are submitting testimony neither for nor against LD 1033, *An Act to Regulate Alcoholic Beverage Competitions*.

The Bureau appreciates the collaboration with Rep. Shagoury and his constituent, Christy Hemenway, in developing the bill. We believe alcohol competitions must be well regulated to ensure public safety. Based on our discussions, we are recommending a few changes for the committee's consideration.

First, we are opposed to the provision allowing homemade spirits to be included in competitions. You may recall that BABLO opposed LD 631, *An Act to Allow a Home Distiller to Distill and Share Homemade Spirituous Liquor*. This bill takes home distilling further by allowing home distillers to provide samples to the public. We recommend either striking spirits from the bill or limiting participation to licensed spirits manufacturers.

Second, we recommend that the eligibility for a competition permit be limited to licensees or certificate of approval holders – not individual home producers. Licensees are well versed in Maine's alcohol laws and are experienced in serving alcohol to members of the public. That experience is important in ensuring events are conducted safely. We'd further recommend clarifying who may participate in these competitions, whether it's licensed entities or home producers.

Some other states that allow competitions establish parameters through rulemaking. We think it makes sense for BABLO to promulgate rules for these events.

Lastly, in conversations with the bill's sponsor, we have discussed the possibility of hosting competitions in conjunction with national organizations who run these types of events across the country. We are still considering this possibility, and wanted to mention it for the committee's consideration.

Thanks for your time. BABLO is happy to work with the sponsor and legislators to develop this proposal and will be available for the work session at the committee's request.