



Maine Brewers' Guild
PO Box 2817
South Portland, ME 04116
4/23/25

Good afternoon Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and distinguished members of the Veterans & Legal Affairs Committee:

My name is Sarah Bryan, I am a resident of Portland and I'm here today as the Executive Director of The Maine Brewers Guild members, who have voted to stand united in support of the proposed changes of LD1456.

The Maine Brewers Guild is a nonprofit dedicated to promoting and protecting the craft beer industry in Maine for the past 30 years. Even before our inception, since the mid 1980's, Maine has been at the forefront of the craft beer movement. Our state is home to over 150 breweries; we directly employ thousands of residents, contribute nearly \$700M dollars in economic impact per annum, conservatively utilize more than 4M pounds of Maine-grown ingredients in the brewing process every year, and are distinguished as the second highest number of breweries per capita in the country.

We are united in the perspective that the existing law and the lack of meaningful production requirements, does not recognize, incentivize or adequately protect Maine brewery investment or local brewery employment. Instead it is being utilized to obtain unlimited amounts of Chapter 43 licenses, without a requisite to manufacture anything beyond minimal amounts of alcoholic beverage products. We believe that this activity runs afoul of the intent of the law and results in working breweries losing representation and market access.

By adapting the statute to ensure equal access-to-market for all beverage manufacturers, we will better ensure a fair and supportive playing field long term for Maine based job creation, small business manufacturing, and the continued health of locally made craft beverages. Our due diligence has turned up no records of existing breweries that currently extend outside the proposed location cap of 6, and have worked consistently with our colleagues in both wine and distilled spirits who are supportive of these changes.

Maine-brewed beer is, in many ways, an essential bellwether industry for both Maine manufacturing and Maine tourism sectors. The work is difficult and expensive, but thrives upon the foundation that quality goods made by hardworking people in the small towns and cities of Maine, will always make a positive impact in local agriculture, the community and the Maine economy. It is for these reasons I urge you to support the proposed changes to this bill.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bryan
Executive Director, Maine Brewers' Guild