

# **ISLAND PARK** **BREWING**

My name is Connor Lacasse, and I am an owner and operator of Island Park Brewing down the road in Winthrop. I am here to speak in opposition to LD 2155.

We opened our doors just a year and a half ago, and in the world of brewing, we are exceptionally small. Like many small breweries, we face numerous challenges, one of the most significant being access to the market.

Last session, this Committee passed legislation limiting the number of on-premises retail liquor licenses a manufacturer may hold. These limits were the result of years of discussion among brewers who recognized that, without them, the integrity and sustainability of Maine's craft beverage industry were at risk. I strongly support this current legislation, which promotes equitable access for small breweries like mine, while also establishing appropriate limits for larger producers.

As you've seen here today, Maine's brewers are a passionate community of individuals. We are proud of what we make, proud of how we make it, and proud that Mainers see us as their breweries. LD 2155 would dilute what it means to be a Maine brewery. It would devalue the hundreds of thousands of dollars each brewery invests in infrastructure and equipment, and ultimately will cheapen Maine craft beer.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to strongly oppose LD 2155. Thank you for your time and consideration.

