

Dylan
Rockland
LD 2160

Good afternoon, Chair Hickman, Chair Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. My name is Dylan, I live in Rockland, Maine, and I've worked at a Small Distillery tasting room here for three years. I'm writing to express my support for HP 1449, An Act to Modify Provisions of Law Affecting Small Distilleries.

I've never understood why Maine has such old-fashioned laws governing small distilleries: When I tell people that we have to give the state such a large cut of the profits from the distillery, even for bottle sales that the state has nothing to do with, it's always met with a confusion that borders on disappointment. We are a tiny operation that makes most of its money from the tasting room, rather than selling bottles wholesale. In other states, this is a business model that can work as a first step to eventual growth—but we haven't been able to take that leap because we send thousands of dollars every year to the state (including substantial fees for bottle sales that we are doing all the work to sell)! This antiquated regulation makes no sense. With this bill, you have the chance to relieve some of the over-regulation that is crushing small businesses who are so proud to be part of Maine's economy.

Thank you for your time,