
GOGGIN'S IGA



January 28, 2026

Dear Senator Ingwersen - Chair, Representative Meyer - Chair, and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **LD 2134, An Act to Create an Exception to the Prohibition of Tobacco Sales in Retail Establishments Containing Pharmacies for Certain Small Grocery Stores.**

Goggin's IGA in Randolph, Maine, is a beloved locally owned IGA supermarket that serves as a true community grocery store with a "Hometown Proud" feel. Locals appreciate our wide selection of fresh produce, quality meats, cheeses, baked goods, and everyday grocery essentials, all offered with friendly, personalized service. The store also houses a pharmacy and bank services, making it a convenient one-stop spot for shopping and errands. Customers often praise our welcoming atmosphere and community-oriented vibe that reflects the charm of small-town Maine.



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Following recent changes to Maine's tobacco licensing laws, our grocery store has substantially reduced our cigarette inventory solely because a pharmacy operates within our building. Since that change, we have seen cigarette sales decline and have experienced a noticeable impact on overall customer traffic. Regular customers have expressed frustration at having to make multiple stops to purchase everyday items, and our staff has observed that some customers are no longer shopping with us at all because we no longer carry the products they expect.

LD 2134 provides a reasonable and narrowly tailored solution by recognizing the distinction between small grocery stores and independently operated pharmacies that share the same location. In our case, the pharmacy operates in a separately demised, leased space, holds its own license, maintains separate inventory, and sells only pharmacy-related items through its own register system. The grocery store and pharmacy are distinct businesses that simply share a building.

As written, LD 2134 ensures that public health goals are maintained while preventing unintended harm to small, community-based grocers. The loss of tobacco sales affects more than a single product category. Cigarette purchases are often tied to broader shopping trips, and when customers go elsewhere for those items, they frequently take their grocery business with them. This has a direct impact on our ability to operate on thin margins and also results in decreased sales tax revenue for the State.

We are also concerned about the precedent created when the sale of a legal product is restricted based solely on the presence of a leased, independently operated business within the same building. If tobacco sales can be eliminated under these circumstances, it raises understandable concerns about whether other lawful products could be subject to similar restrictions in the future.

For many small towns and rural communities, grocery stores that also host pharmacies serve as critical access points for both food and healthcare.



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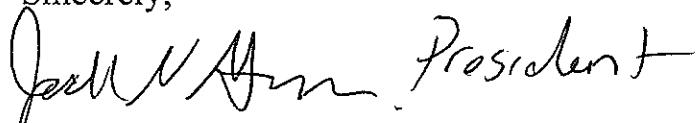
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Policies that unintentionally undermine the viability of these businesses risk reducing access to essential services for the communities they serve.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to support LD 2134 and advance a commonsense approach that recognizes the operational realities of small grocery stores while ensuring fairness and consistency in tobacco licensing policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jack N. Goggin, President



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