

Edward Swain
Portland
LD 2036

As I understand it, LD 2036 may introduce the requirement for bottles of wine sold in the State of Maine to all have bar codes. This requirement would be difficult or impossible to manage for many of the small family farm wineries that my business works with and they would stop selling into the State of Maine. That would have a large negative impact on my business and also on consumer choice in Maine. The wineries that can afford to manage a bar code system are generally larger; disallowing wines without bar codes would have the effect of helping those larger wineries at the expense of smaller wine producers. The labels of all wine bottles sold into Maine are already registered with the DEP, deposits are paid, and the bottles are stickered with Maine redemption stickers. Please amend LD 2036 to continue to allow bottles that lack bar codes. Many wine consumers in Maine would lose out if the bar code requirement goes through.