



February 19, 2026
State of Maine
Committee On Environment and Natural Resources
RE: LD 2141

Dear Senator Tepler and Representative Doudera,

I'm writing on behalf of Maine's small, independent brewers to express serious concern about LD 2141.

LD 2141 would redirect \$4 million annually from unclaimed beverage container deposits — funds that are currently used to offset the costs of operating Maine's bottle redemption system. While those funds sit at the distributor level, the financial impact does not stay there. When system costs increase, they move through the supply chain and land on manufacturers, retailers, and consumers.

For small brewers, this matters. We are already operating with thin margins amid rising ingredient costs, packaging volatility, labor pressures, and already high handling fees in the country. The 2023 Bottle Bill modernization required significant operational adjustments, and many small producers are still absorbing those changes.

Removing \$4 million annually from the system will increase financial strain and create pressure for higher per-container pricing. That affects competitiveness, especially against out-of-state producers not operating under Maine's cost structure.

We support investments in farmland protection, lake health, and public services. But funding those priorities by destabilizing a recently restructured redemption system places additional burden on small, locally owned manufacturing businesses. We urge careful consideration of the downstream impact on Maine's craft brewing community before advancing LD 2141.

Thank you for your time and service. I'm happy to connect you directly with brewers in your district to discuss how this proposal would affect their businesses.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bryan
Executive Director
Maine Brewers' Guild
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