



**DISTILLED SPIRITS COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES**

January 17, 2024

Hon. Craig Hickman, Chair
Hon. Laura Supica, Chair
Maine Joint Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Statement on L.D. 2069 – An Act to Amend the Ownership Disclosure Requirements for Applicants for Liquor Licenses and Certificates of Approval
Neither For Nor Against

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, a national trade association representing producers and marketers of distilled spirits and importers of wines sold in the United States with regard to L.D. 2069 entitled "An Act to Amend the Ownership Disclosure Requirements for Applicants for Liquor Licenses and Certificates of Approval".

As former Chairman of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission – another control state, like Maine – I can speak personally to the importance of BABLO's role in knowing who is licensed. Unfortunately, the policy laid out in BABLO's Advisory Memorandum of June 16, 2023 added significant complexity that would make it incredibly difficult and burdensome for numerous independent, family-owned and controlled businesses to comply.

We were grateful to see the introduction of L.D. 2069 and to engage in discussion on this matter with our members, other industry stakeholders, and BABLO officials and staff, all of which has helped lead to the introduction of this bill. The language of the bill represents a good first step, but there is still more to be done, in our opinion, to satisfactorily address the issue, particularly with regard to trusts. For example, the inclusion of 5 percent as the standard for which interest is to be reported is far too low. We would recommend 15 percent so as to continue to meet the objective of the bill while not being overly burdensome. We are hopeful that further conversation will bring about more positive changes that will earn our support.

We appreciate your consideration of our views regarding LD 201. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by telephone at 207-831-8285 or by email at andy.deloney@distilledspirits.org, or our Maine counsel, Andy Hackman.

Sincerely,

Andy Deloney
Senior Vice President & Head State Public Policy

cc: Members of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs