

**Testimony of Ashley Luszczki
Before the Joint Standing Committees on Environment & Natural Resources
Neither for nor Against L.D. 1582, An Act to Clarify the Law Governing Certain Beverage
Containers
April 22, 2025**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resource, my name is Ashley Luszczki. I am here on behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, representing a network of more than 5,000 businesses. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony neither for nor against L.D. 1582, An Act to Clarify the Law Governing Certain Beverage Containers.

Under Title 38, §3110, plastic beverage containers that incorporate aluminum or steel and have a metal closure are prohibited in Maine. The Chamber supports L.D. 1582 because it offers a targeted and reasonable clarification – specifically defining “closure device” to ensure these modern beverage containers are allowed in Maine’s market. We see this legislation as a technical fix that will have a positive impact on Maine consumers, retailers, and manufacturers.

Ready-to-drink beverages, which are increasingly packaged in these types of containers, represent one of the fastest-growing product categories in the beverage industry. They are widely available in 49 states where the containers are accepted and recycled.

Ironically, one of these ready-to-drink beverages is produced by a company with deep economic and manufacturing ties in Maine but cannot be sold to Maine consumers. We feel this is a missed opportunity for consumers, retailers, and our economy. L.D. 1582 removes the barrier that prevents companies like Sazerac from expanding their offerings into Maine’s market, which would help to create greater consumer demand – driving sales and the need for new economic opportunities. Beyond supporting Maine manufacturing, this bill would provide retailers with more product choice to stay competitive with counterparts in neighboring states.

We have heard that there are concerns about how these products will be recycled – specifically, if they are included in Maine’s bottle redemption program. While this is important to consider, the products are recognized as recyclable elsewhere and should not be all-together prohibited from Maine’s market due to these concerns.

The Chamber believes this legislation presents a practical update to Maine’s law that will provide choice to consumers as well as economic benefit to retailers and manufacturers who are Maine’s job creators. Thank you for your consideration of L.D. 1582.