

Wednesday, April 22, 2025

TESTIMONY FROM ANTHONY LYONS

LD 1456 An Act to Place Reasonable Limits on the Number of On-premises Retail Liquor Licenses in which Manufacturing Licensees May Have An Ownership Interest

Good Afternoon,

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

My name is Anthony Lyons and I am a resident of Auburn, here representing the Maine Winery Guild and also as owner of WillowsAwake Winery in Leeds, Maine. Our 67-acre parcel of land is home to WillowsAwake Winery supported by eight acres of vineyard, a state of art winery production facility, a tasting room and the No.10 Eatery@WillowsAwake, a Class A Restaurant. Our restaurant operates year-round.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer comments in support of **LD 1456 An Act to Place Reasonable Limits on the Number of On-premises Retail Liquor Licenses in which Manufacturing Licensees May Have an Ownership Interest.**

While the Maine winery businesses who are members of the Maine Winery Guild are not seeing the problems described by the Maine Brewers Guild, we are supportive of the basic concept that we all operate on a level playing field and follow not just the letter of the law but also the spirit of the law. While business success is certainly built on imagination and entrepreneurship, we don't support those businesses that utilize loopholes that then place other businesses at a disadvantage.

The revisions to Title 28-A Section 1355 proposed by this bill ensure equal access-to-market for all manufacturers and a better, more fair and supportive business environment yet still allowing business flexibility to expand in a reasonable and appropriate manner.

Thank you for your time and I welcome any questions you may have at this time.