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Dear Members of the Health & Human Services Committee,

Please vote no on LD 1344. Maine's businesses have suffered enough. Giving government agencies more discretionary power during a state of emergency, without corresponding and fair due process rights for citizens and businesses, is just a power grab under the name of public health.

I was mortified at the aggressive behavior of the Department of HHS toward Sunday River Brewing and the obscene amount of fees charged to a hard-working business. Having inspected factories and landfills for safety violations I firmly believe in health and safety inspections of the food service industry. However, when an agency is granted oversight they are also obligated to be responsible for their actions. Increasing fees is irresponsible and implies that the Dept of HHS lacks credibility and must compensate by imposing disproportionate penalties. Government should not rule by a fear factor. We have many ways to communicate and welcome government to ask for input on bills that affect them, preferably before they are printed.