



Maine Grocers &  
Food Producers  
Association  
PO Box 5234  
Augusta, ME 04332  
207.622.4461  
info@mgfpa.org

Friday, April 30, 2021

IN SUPPORT - LD 1453 ' An Act To Protect Small Employers by Prohibiting Municipalities from Adopting Ordinances Regarding Employee Work Benefits Other Than Ordinances Regarding Minimum Wage Rates'

Dear Senator Hickman, Chair, Representative Sylvester, Chair, and Members of the Labor and Housing Committee,

My name is Christine Cummings and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Grocers & Food Producers Association. Originally from Augusta, I now live in Sidney. I grew up working at my father's convenience store and coincidentally, now advocate on many of the issues we discussed growing up that affect his business and businesses alike. The Maine Grocers & Food Producers Association is a business trade association representing more than 200 businesses within Maine's food community; Main street businesses including independently owned and operated grocery stores and supermarkets, food and beverage producers and processors, manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and supportive service companies.

Forty-four states have preemption laws that target key worker rights. States have proactively preempted labor laws for more than 20 years including policies on minimum wages, scheduling, prevailing wage, paid lead and gig economy. We support efforts to ensure consistency for our businesses who operate across the state.

Grocery stores operate on a margin of 1-2%. According to the *2020 Independent Grocers Financial Survey*, labor and benefits accounted for 15.7% of total 2019 sales. Labor policies are best determined at the state level with the expertise and insight from the Maine Department of Labor, stakeholders from all interested parties, and well-vetted discussion including economic impact and legal complexities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

*Christine Cummings*

Christine Cummings  
Executive Director