



**RETAIL
ASSOCIATION OF
MAINE**
Voice of Maine Retail

45 Melville Street, Suite 1
Augusta, ME 04330
Phone: 207.623.1149
www.retailmaine.org

April 30, 2021

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

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of 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, Representative Sylvester and members of the Labor and Housing Committee:

My name is Curtis Picard and I am the President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine. I am a resident of Topsham. We have more than 350 members statewide and represent retailers of all sizes. Maine's retailers employ more than 85,000 Mainers. I am testifying in support of LD 1453.

We firmly believe that wage and labor laws are best decided at the state or federal level. Businesses deserve consistency across a state and the state is most capable of ensuring that wage and labor laws are enforced. Municipalities, although often well-meaning, often do not have the experience or knowledge of the impacts a local ordinance can have. LD 1453 would clarify that municipalities cannot enact municipal level ordinances related to wage and labor laws beyond the minimum wage. We recognize that some municipalities have already gone down the road of enacting their own minimum wage, but we have concern that municipalities will enact conflicting or poorly drafted attempts at establishing local wage and labor ordinances beyond the minimum wage.

We urge the committee to give this bill consideration and vote to support LD 1453.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts.

Sincerely,

Curtis Picard, CAE
President and CEO