

Andrew Volk
Portland

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comments in support of LD 1711, An Act To Enhance Enforcement of Employment Laws.

My name is Andrew Volk and I'm a resident of Portland. I'm also a small business owner with a restaurant and bar located in Portland.

For small business owners, the prevalence of law-breaking companies puts law-abiding businesses at a competitive disadvantage. When a business is allowed to get away with cheating because employees who know about illegal activity are afraid to come forward due to retaliation, the "bad guys" win.

I have worked in the hospitality industry for over 15 years, across the country. Within our industry in particular, I can tell you with certainty that sexual harassment, wage theft and discrimination are rampant. Yet employees often fear reprisal, retaliation and other consequences for speaking out against their employers. This needs to stop and LD 1711 is a strong step in helping hard-working employees not be afraid just to show up to work.

LD 1711 presents Maine with an opportunity to protect its workforce better and to make sure its law-abiding businesses can succeed. Please vote yes on LD 1711.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Volk
Portland, Maine