



Maine Grocers &  
Food Producers  
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Monday, February 22, 2021

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST- LD 307 'An Act To Expand the Market for Maine Liquor Manufacturers'

Dear Senator Luchini - Chair, Representative Caiazzo - Chair, and Members of the Committee On Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Christine Cummings and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Grocers & Food Producers Association (MGFPA). The Maine Grocers & Food Producers Association is a business trade association representing 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.

We are testifying Neither For Nor Against LD 307 and instead we ask the Committee to consider seeking a Resolve to further the conversation about expanding the market for our in-state manufacturers, Mainers as customers, and our state's retailers as partners.

The reality is that liquor is being sold to Maine consumers online and our distillers are working with partners outside the state to ensure the demand for their product can be met. There are two bills in this session seeking to address changes in the market, now is the time to convene a stakeholders meeting to discuss what is the demand and opportunity, what's currently happening, how can we all work together to comply, capitalize on lost dollars, and engage our retail partners to determine what role they can potentially serve in selling to the customer. We ask for a pause to ensure a well vetted approach to these potential market changes.

I'm happy to help facilitate any conversations with my members or to gather additional feedback as the conversation continues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

*Christine Cummings*

Christine Cummings  
Executive Director