



Testimony of The Vault, Lewiston, Maine
In Support of
LD 591 "An Act Regarding Agency Liquor Store Licensing"
March 7, 2021

Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Keith Tannenbaum, and I am the owner of The Vault, a fine wine and craft beer shop in Downtown Lewiston. I am writing to provide support in favor of LD 591, An Act Regarding Agency Liquor Store Licensing.

In August of 2021, The Vault will have been open in downtown Lewiston for 10 years. The original owner, Susan Hall, did a great job opening and building the shop up, and since taking over in 2016, I have done my best to build on the standards that Susan set for The Vault. The store has continued to grow, and we are still seeing first time customers almost every day. I believe that The Vault is an ideal location to offer high-end liquor sales that are in line with what we are currently offering for wine and beer. Lewiston currently has filled all available Agency Liquor store licenses, but all of them are very similar to each other, and none of them offer what The Vault would be able to provide Lewiston. As a downtown location we would be ideally located to serve a different population. Our goal would be to carry high-end spirits, such as Bourbon, Scotch, etc., that are not typically available locally.

I believe that as a small, boutique-style business we are dramatically different than all of the current Agency license holders in Lewiston. I have already sent in my letter of interest to BABLO, but when last I spoke to my enforcement officer it was explained to me that I had missed the most recent opening, and that unless someone gives up their license I would need to wait. My hope is that with the adoption of this bill that I will be able to be considered on our merits for the added license in Lewiston.

I recognize the value in having a limited number of Agency Liquor stores in a given community, but I believe that an additional license in Lewiston, especially at a small independent store, would be a great addition to our community, and an opportunity for our small business to continue to grow.

Thank you for proposing this important piece of legislation, and please let me know if there is anything additionally that I can offer to assist in your deliberation.

Sincerely,
Keith Tannenbaum, Owner
The Vault