



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

Monday, January 10, 2022

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST- LD 1751 'An Act To Make Permanent
the Changes to the Liquor Laws Made by Public Law 2021, Chapters 3 and 91'

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.

When we previously testified on LD 205 last February our comments were specific to the September 2022 sunset date. As an ally of the tourism and hospitality industries, our testimony was based on the *temporary* allowance to ensure our on-premise partners were able to remain economically viability.

Grocers, too, continue to experience challenges within their own supply chains and we are far from understanding the impacts of the pandemic on consumer behavior. We express hesitation of the potential advantage that LD 1751 may give restaurants and bars as customers continue to utilize the alcohol to-go service with their takeout. We have not yet had adequate time to review the success, potential pitfalls, or liabilities of the policy.

We support an *extension* of cocktails and prepackaged alcohol to-go with a food order. Additional time to understand the impact of this legislation in our new normal, outside of the pandemic, will aid in our understanding of what this policy change may mean for all our industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Cummings".

Christine Cummings
Executive Director