The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME  

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:  

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 488, “An Act to Provide for Municipalities to Allow Grocery Stores up to 10,000 Square Feet to Open on Thanksgiving, Easter and Christmas.”  

Either Maine is open for business or it’s not. If members of the Legislature were sincerely interested in removing unnecessary red tape and delivering real, meaningful reform to Maine’s business community, they would stop granting piecemeal carve-outs to Maine’s antiquated blue laws. Instead of passing LD 488 as amended, lawmakers should instead support allowing all Maine businesses the opportunity to decide whether to be open when and how they see fit based on market demand.  

This bill perpetuates the picking of winners and losers in our economy. We need to pass real reform and stop nibbling around the edges of what most of us view as unnecessary obstacles to a free market system. LD 488 passes the buck to municipalities to allow grocery stores with no more than 10,000 square feet of selling space to open on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. While I absolutely support the ability of these businesses to be open on these three days, I also support the ability of other non-exempt businesses to be open when they deem it appropriate as well.  

For this reason, I return LD 488 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it and allow all businesses an equal opportunity on these three days.

Sincerely,  

Paul R. LePage  
Governor