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Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, Members of the Committee. I'm sorry I can't be there to offer this testimony in person. I hope you consider what I offer.

As a former Legislator and a business owner I'm concerned about the costs that are being imposed on small business owners in Maine. We are the employers of Maine taxpayers. It's getting harder and harder for small businesses to make ends meet. It seems every time the Legislature meets another cost, another regulation, another form for us to fill out is imposed on us. Most of us have to compete with products and services from places where costs are lower. The Public Policy charges on our electric bills are yet another cost we have to find a way to pay, and still have something left for ourselves. For many small businesses this is "the straw that breaks the camel's back" and they are forced to go out of business or move to a place with lower costs.

If Maine is going to prosper and provide jobs with a livable wage the cost to run a business must be reduced. We need to start that reduction right here and right now, or suffer the consequences. It's up to you. Thank you.