



February 5, 2025

**Testimony In Opposition To
LD 61, An Act to Regulate Employer Surveillance to Protect Workers**

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Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and Honorable Members of the Labor Committee,

My name is Alexander Price, and I am testifying in opposition to LD 61 on behalf of the Maine Jobs Council, which is a statewide, nonpartisan, member-driven advocacy organization that advances public policies to support the creation and preservation of foundational jobs in Maine.

A recent assessment of the competitiveness of Maine's statewide economy by the Porter Development Initiative (PDI) found that Maine is not attracting new employment at the same rates as other areas of the U.S. and that existing firms in Maine are not achieving the high levels of productivity that would support increasing wage levels for employees. We are among the least productive states in the nation, despite high levels of labor force participation among working-age Mainers; we create fewer jobs, attract less investment, and start fewer businesses than most other states; our worker wages are low and contrast with higher cost burdens; and we lack many of the hallmarks of a competitive location for business.

The Maine Jobs Council certainly supports making workers a top priority. However, the best way to do that is with a robust economy full of quality foundational jobs that provide choices, career growth, and increasing wages. While we appreciate the sponsor's intent with this bill, we believe that improving Maine's competitive standing and chances to attract foundational jobs and investment requires fewer regulations, not more. This bill would create an undue burden on employers to justify and limit monitoring and provide employees with recourse against valid monitoring. There are many legitimate reasons why employers use surveillance in the course of business, such as for security and productivity. An employer should be allowed to monitor the use of its own devices, a distinction that is not made in the bill. Finally, the inclusion of a private right of action will only lead to more lawsuits, driving up the cost of doing business in Maine and continuing to make Maine an outlier among other states across the nation.

Individual pieces of legislation, like LD 61, are not the solution to solving our state's economic problems. We encourage this committee to start taking a more comprehensive look at how workforce challenges, taxes, regulations, infrastructure, and other issues act as a barrier to job creation in our state. If Maine is not a competitive and productive place for businesses, workers, and families, its economic plans and efforts will falter. Maine needs to develop a comprehensive, integrated, and strategic plan that focuses legislation, regulation, and public policy on talent attraction, investment, and job creation.

The MJC thanks the committee for its time and consideration of this issue, and we would welcome any opportunity to discuss it with you.

Thank you,

Alexander Price, Pierce Atwood
On behalf of the Maine Jobs Council