



May 20, 2025

**Testimony in Support of LD 1792, *An Act Regarding the Energy Policy of the State*  
Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. My name is Dirk Gouwens and I am the Executive Director of the Ski Maine Association. I live in New Portland, ME I am testifying in support of LD 1792.

Ski Areas in Maine provide jobs to over 5000 Mainer's during the ski season. They play a vital role in the economies of the rural areas of the state. Ski Areas require a large amount of energy to operate. Making snow, which is necessary given our increasingly unreliable weather requires compressed air and water delivered under high pressure. In addition, ski lifts operate with large motors to propel skiers uphill. Many of our ski areas also provide lodging options and food service operations which require energy in various forms.

For the past two-plus decades, Maine's ski areas have been taking an active role in purchasing and installing new equipment that runs on electricity, replacing older technology that relied on diesel fuel. These improvements cost many millions of dollars and now ski areas are being penalized for their efforts to reduce their impact on the environment through the process of electrification as a result of various state policies.

We take the importance of climate change seriously. Ski Areas are more effected than virtually any other business in the state. We rely on consistent, cold weather to maintain operations. The process of electrification helps us do our part to reduce our impact on the environment. This is something we wish to continue in the future. However, forcing large energy customers to pay Net Energy Billing stranded costs has everyone re-thinking their approach for the future. Several of our ski areas will benefit from keeping their diesel powered air compressors rather than switching to electricity. Putting these projects at risk is detrimental to everyone in Maine and we urge you to take action to remedy the situation.

We urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 1972. While this bill does not address all our concerns, it is a good beginning.

Dirk Gouwens,  
Executive Director