



MEMO OF OPPOSITION
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April 4, 2023

Senator Tipping
Representative Roeder
Members, Committee on Labor and Housing
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: Testimony of The Retail Lumber Dealers Association of Maine in Opposition to LD 949: *An Act To Protect Workers From Employer Surveillance*

Dear Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and Members of the Committee on Labor and Housing,

My name is Dan Riley, an attorney with the firm of Norman, Hanson & DeTroy in Portland and I serve as counsel for the Retail Lumber Dealers Association of Maine (RLDAM), which represents independent lumber and building material dealers, manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and other associated businesses in the state of Maine and an industry that employs more than 20,000 Maine residents, the Retail Lumber Dealers are opposed to LD 949.

While we understand this bill is likely geared towards monitoring employees work on a computer, RLDAM has concerns that the vague definitions in the bill could be applied to many aspects of our industry. First, delivery GPS monitoring systems used by most members to increase efficiencies in routing and driver safety. Employees are notified of these monitoring systems, but, if this bill caused these to be restricted or eligible to be denied by employees, that seems inappropriate and inefficient, especially as technology continues to envelop our processes.

The vague language also seems that it could be interpreted to include cameras in the workplace. RLDAM members use cameras everywhere for monitoring mill flow, process, and productivity. Many have surveillance cameras for theft and security concerns. Our members also have cameras in their trucks, both looking out and in, used similarly to the GPS monitoring system to increase driver safety, not to monitor their activity related to productivity.

RLDAM supports legislation that prohibits employers from spying on their employees or monitoring them in unfair ways. However, we are very concerned that this bill could be applied to technology that is utilized to increase efficiency and safety and thus urge the sponsor and committee to reconsider the definitions in the bill to make them more specific.


Daniel Riley