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**Testimony of Michael Roland,
Bureau of Labor Standards, Maine Department of Labor
Neither For nor Against LD 1794,
An Act to Enhance the Predictability of Mandated Overtime for Pulp or Paper
Manufacturing Facility Employees
To the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing Public Hearing,
Thursday, May 18, 2023**

Good afternoon Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. I am Mike Roland, Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards for the Maine Department of Labor (Department). I am here today to speak on behalf of the Department neither for nor against LD 1794, An Act to Enhance the Predictability of Mandated Overtime for Pulp or Paper Manufacturing Facility Employees.

The Department understands the concerns regarding scheduling and excessive hours of work in the pulp and paper industry that motivate this proposed amendment to the State's existing statute limiting mandatory overtime. We take no position on the specific content of the bill, but we do have a technical concern about certain language in the new section 603-A proposed in section 4 of the bill.

The term "pulp or paper manufacturing facility" is defined in subsection 1 and applied in subsequent subsections in ways we believe might be ambiguous or confusing. We suggest amending it to:

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "pulp or paper manufacturing ~~facility~~ employer" means an employer that operates a facility that is used primarily to manufacture pulp or paper products.

and amending the corresponding language in subsections 2.A, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to "... pulp or paper manufacturing employer..."

Thanks for your time and attention. I'd be happy to answer any questions now or at a work session.

The Maine Department of Labor is committed to serving Maine workers and businesses by helping employers recruit and train a talented workforce, providing workers with skills needed to compete in our economy, assisting individuals when jobs are lost, aiding people with disabilities reach career goals, ensuring safe and fair workplaces for people on the job and providing research and analysis of employment data to support job growth.