

MEMO OF OPPOSITION
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May 25, 2023

Senator Tipping
Representative Roeder
Members, Joint Standing 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 LD1964: An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the
Commission to Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program**

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

My name is Dan Riley. I am an attorney with the firm of Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, and I appear on behalf of our client, 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 RLDAM opposes LD1964 for many reasons.

First, RLDAM members oppose this bill because it proposes to add another cost to employers in an economic environment where businesses are already struggling. Continued increases in state minimum wage, alongside high inflation and continued supply chain issues, have left Maine businesses struggling with costs. This additional cost to employers for the paid family and medical leave program will harm businesses even more.

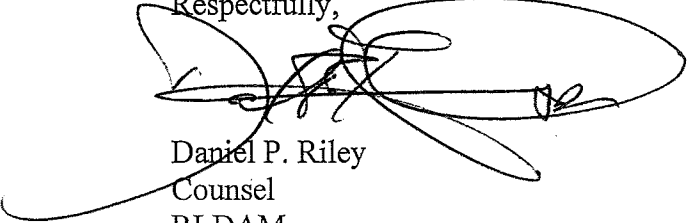
Maine needs to stop paying for everything on the backs of employers. If employees want this benefit, they should pay for it. Should this bill become law, it should be fully paid for by employees only since they are the ones who will benefit. Forcing employers to pay for their employees to be able to leave for up to 12 weeks, when they will also have to then pay for temporary help, if they can find it, is wrong. Any increases to the amount paid into the program after 2028 to ensure "solvency" should also be fully paid by employees.

Second, many companies in our industry, and others, are currently struggling to find help. We are unable to fill all open positions, especially for CDL drivers, which requires a lot of expensive training to obtain this license. Our members don't know from one day to the next who might call out sick and/or not show up. Consequently,

when employees don't show up for work, this creates more work for others who need to be called in to cover shifts. This issue will be drastically exacerbated by LD1964, if employees are permitted to be out of work for long stretches.

Finally, this bill is the most egregious example of the use of concept drafts, which have proliferated on this Legislature's watch. This use of concept drafts, particularly on an issue with such major implications and costs so late in the legislative session, is inexcusable, irresponsible and fundamentally unfair to our members and all of the citizens of the State of Maine.

Respectfully,



Daniel P. Riley
Counsel
RLDAM