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Testimony of Rep. Scott Landry presenting

LD 2149, An Act to Exempt Seasonal Volunteer Ski Patrollers and Seasonal Volunteer Ski Ambassadors and Hosts at Ski Areas from the Minimum Wage Laws

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing

Good afternoon, Sen. Tipping, Rep. Roeder and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. I am Representative Scott Landry, and I represent the towns of Chesterville and Farmington in House District 75. Today, I am here to introduce **LD 2149, An Act to Exempt Seasonal Volunteer Ski Patrollers and Seasonal Volunteer Ski Ambassadors and Hosts at Ski Areas from the Minimum Wage Laws**, which would protect a long held tradition in Maine.

For over 80 years now, volunteer ski patrol and ambassadors have signed up to keep folks safe because of their love of the sport and their desire to give back to local communities. As part of this tradition, volunteers have always gotten a free ski pass as thanks and in lieu of compensation. We want to protect this tradition and the culture of volunteerism that is so strong in Maine's skiing communities.

Under the U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act, there is a long-standing exemption from minimum wage laws for seasonal employers that use volunteer ski patrollers. This federal law exempts seasonal businesses – including those that operate less than seven months a year, or those that earn most of their revenue in six months of operations – from federal minimum wage laws. Nineteen states have adopted this seasonal recreation exemption from their own state minimum wage laws. Now it's our turn.

Support for this bill would celebrate our incredible tradition of volunteerism at Maine's 17 ski areas, and will inspire future volunteers to serve their communities and the sport of skiing.