

Testimony of Jake Lachance

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Before the Joint Standing Committee of Labor and Housing

In support of

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

Sen. Tipping, Rep. Roeder and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Jake Lachance, and I am a Government Relations Specialist with the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce is a statewide business association representing both large and small businesses all across Maine, and in every employment sector of the economy, speaking to you today in support of 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.

It is important to note that the Chamber membership is comprised of many members of the skiing community, many of whom you either have heard from, or will hear from today. This bill at its essence is merely aligning Maine Law with existing law in many other states, including Colorado, California, and Massachusetts, as well as Federal Minimum Wage laws. It is essential for businesses in the ski community to have this exemption, as it allows them to operate with the flexibility they have had for the last 80 years.

At the end of the day, this exemption is nothing new, and fosters a legacy of volunteerism that the ski community depends on. Seasonal worker accommodations are key in the free-flowing nature of Maine's economy, and the Chamber agrees that the language in LD 2149 satisfies the needs of the ski business community. With that, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce is in support of LD 2149. Thank you.