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**Testimony of Dr. Jason Moyer-Lee,
Bureau of Labor Standards, Maine Department of Labor
In Support
LD 372, An Act to Increase Enforcement and Accountability for Wage and
Hour Violations
To the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing Public Hearing,
2/6/2024**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. I am Dr. Jason Moyer-Lee, Director of Labor Standards at the Maine Department of Labor (“the Department”). I submit this testimony on behalf of the Department in support of LD 372, *An Act to Increase Enforcement and Accountability for Wage and Hour Violations*.

LD 372 would enable the Bureau of Labor Standards to order an employer found in violation to pay workers what they are owed in back wages and liquidated damages. Currently, the Department of Labor can fine employers for failing to pay workers what they are owed, but needs to institute litigation in order to recover the monies owed for the worker. This means the Department (or the AG’s office) and businesses incur unnecessary added expense and the worker must wait longer for the issues to be resolved. LD 372 would enable a speedier and less costly administration of wage claims.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters. I would be happy to address any questions in the hearing, at the work session, or in writing thereafter.

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.