



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and esteemed members of the Taxation Committee. I am Representative Mike Soboleski and I come before you today in support of LD 1603 *"An Act to Eliminate the Property Tax on Business Equipment With a Value of No More Than \$50,000"*

I submit this testimony in strong support of LD 1603, a bill that makes common-sense improvements to Maine's tax code by exempting business equipment valued at \$50,000 or less from personal property taxation. This legislation is about fairness, economic opportunity, and ensuring that Maine remains a place where small businesses can succeed without unnecessary financial burdens.

Maine has always been a state built on hard work, ingenuity, and self-reliance. From the small-town shop owners to the independent tradespeople, our local businesses are the backbone of our economy and our communities. The personal property tax on essential business equipment unfairly penalizes these entrepreneurs for investing in their livelihoods. LD 1603 corrects that, allowing business owners to purchase, upgrade, and maintain the tools they need without being taxed on the very equipment that keeps their operations running.

This bill is straightforward and practical. It establishes clear guidelines ensuring that all business equipment within the designated value threshold is exempt, preventing unnecessary administrative confusion. Further, it prohibits any political subdivision from imposing additional taxes or fees on the exempted equipment, reinforcing the intent of this legislation.

LD 1603 also takes a responsible approach to implementation by directing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to provide guidance to municipalities and businesses. This ensures a smooth transition, minimizes disruptions, and supports compliance.

At its core, this bill is about supporting Maine's small businesses—giving them the breathing room they need to grow, invest, and keep their doors open. It's a matter of fairness, and it's the kind of practical, no-nonsense policy that reflects the values of our state. I urge my colleagues to support LD 1603 and move Maine forward with policies that truly serve our people.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Soboleski".

Michael A. Soboleski
State Representative