

Tom Butler
Sugarloaf Mountain Corp.

Chairman Senator Dill, Chairperson Representative O'Neill, and members of the Legislative Agriculture Conservation and Forestry Committee. My name is Tom Butler and I serve as the Vice President of Skier Services at Sugarloaf in Carrabassett Valley. I'm submitting this testimony in favor of L.D. 1690 on behalf of Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation.

Sugarloaf, for the past 30 years has leased the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center from the Town of Carrabassett Valley for the purposes of operating the facilities and providing outdoor activities for Carrabassett residents and its visitors. For a good portion of those 30 years, the primary activity at the Outdoor Center has been Nordic skiing along with skating on the facility's NHL sized ice rink during the winters. Over the years, as resident and visitor populations have increased in Carrabassett Valley, winter activities have expanded like snowshoeing and fat biking.

The town of Carrabassett Valley has also been investing in developing mountain bike trails, and as a result of the existing facilities, the Outdoor Center has naturally become a hub of surging mountain bike activity and has helped position the area as a true 4-season tourist destination. The recent focus on mountain bike trail development has been well received by both guests and residents alike, especially during the past 15 months as people of all ages craved to be outside and seek out opportunities to enjoy a break from daily routines. The facilities and activities at the Outdoor Center fortunately were able to provide that release for people throughout the year.

Sugarloaf's underlying goal in its operation of the Outdoor Center is centered around providing a family fun environment for Carrabassett Valley town residents and for Sugarloaf's current and future guests. We are also always looking at opportunities to develop and provide more activities throughout the year such as races, festivals, and concerts to name a few. It's for this reason why we are in support of L.D. 1690 and appreciate your time and consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Tom Butler
VP Sugarloaf Skier Services