

Good Morning Chair Curry, Chair Roberts and members of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee.

My name is Christopher Carey I am the Legislative Representative for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 4. I am speaking on behalf of over 5,200 members of the Operating Engineers Local 4.

Our membership is made up of heavy equipment operators, mechanics, apprentices, equipment house employees, surveyors, waste water technicians and some public sector employees. Some of our most recognized members are the operators that you see repairing and replacing Maine's infrastructure and the crane operators carefully building the new building that shape our skylines.

Local 4 fully supports LD1168: An Act to License Operators of Personnel Hoists. A licensed operator, operating a personnel hoist means that you will have someone with the basic knowledge of how the hoist works, the safety mechanisms in place and the state laws that will apply to the operation.

Many of the Operating Engineers Local 4's members operate personnel hoist. In the state of Massachusetts they all have at least shown a basic knowledge for the operation and state laws required. We spend a lot of time and money on these members so that they have the most up to date training. We understand that the operator running the hoist is a crucial part of the job but also needs to be one of the safest as well. They are moving people from floor to floor on the outside of a building. These hoist are set up temporarily from job to job and need to have a competent person inspecting them and knowing how they work. This is why we believe that there should be a license in place that shows one has the knowledge necessary to operator a hoist in the state of Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christopher L. Carey  
Legislative Representative  
Operating Engineers Local 4