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**Testimony of Dirk Gouwens, Executive Director,
Ski Maine Association**

in Opposition to

LD 1168

An Act to License Operators of Personnel Hoists

**Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development,
Economic Advancement and Business**

April 13, 2021

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and Members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

My name is Dirk Gouwens and I am writing to you today as the Executive Director of the Ski Maine Association, a not for profit organization that represents the interests of the Alpine and Nordic Ski Centers in the State of Maine. Please accept this letter in opposition to LD 1168, An act to License Operators of Personnel Hoists.

To be clear, Ski Maine does not oppose the Licensing of Operators of Personnel Hoists. However, the title of this bill bears little relationship to the actual language of this bill. If the sponsors of the bill are only interested in Licensing Operators of Personnel Hoists, then they should have included only language to that effect, which is contained on Page 5, Line 30 through Page 6, Line 24. The balance of the bill's 10 pages are devoted to the creation of an oversight board, and re-writing current statutes to accommodate this newly created board, which the Maine Legislature determined to be obsolete, and unnecessary in 2013-14.

Since 2013-14, when the Maine Legislature abolished the Maine Tramway and Elevator Board, jurisdiction over tramways and elevators has been delegated to the Commissioner of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and the Chief Inspector. Ski Maine and its members have full faith that these individuals have done their job with complete integrity and impartiality. We see no reason at all to create a bureaucratic committee to muddy the waters.

Further, the proposed make up of the 10 member oversight board has no representation from the tramway industry, yet this board would be directed to oversee rulemaking for tramways, inspectors and mechanics. The prior, abolished in 2013-14 committee was made up of 7 members with 3 members from the tramway industry.

We do not support a group of people who work in the elevator industry being allowed to control, oversee, provide technical assistance, hear appeals and be given rule-making authority for an industry that they know little (or nothing) about?

Ski Maine Association would withdraw its opposition to this bill if the sponsors amend the bill to only include language which addresses the title of the bill, An Act to License Operators of Personnel Hoists which is contained on page 5 Line 30 through Page 6, Line 24.

We will continue to oppose this bill and the creation of an oversight board regardless of make-up if any of the remaining portion of the bill continues to be included.