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Testimony of Representative Tiffany D. Roberts presenting

LD 1168, "An Act To License Operators of Personnel Hoists"

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Good morning Senator Curry and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. I am Tiffany Roberts, and I represent House District 6, which includes parts of North Berwick and South Berwick. I am here today to present **LD 1168, An Act To License Operators of Personnel Hoists**.

This bill establishes the Elevator Advisory Board and requires licensure of operators of personnel hoists. The Elevator Advisory Board that is created in this bill is not new. It has previously existed, but was disbanded. This bill is seeking to reestablish the Board.

If you live in or have visited any of the larger cities in Maine, you may have noticed more high-rise buildings being built. What's not often thought of is the actual construction of these buildings, which would not be possible without outdoor elevators.

In an ideal situation, a licensed elevator mechanic who is a member of the International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) would work in tandem with an operating engineer who is a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) to install and ensure the safety of a hoist. Right now, this doesn't happen in Maine. Currently, the IUEC mechanic completes the install, and in most cases, turns the unit over to someone who has limited to no experience with the unit. One of the biggest concerns of elevator mechanics is that many different people operating the hoist may not know or understand the safety mechanisms in place, which is a major problem in regards to work and rider safety.

To clear up confusion regarding this bill, it is about hoists/elevators and does not include ski lifts, as drafted, as is my understanding. That is also not the intention of the bill at all.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. The experts to follow can answer your more technical questions, but I am happy to answer any questions to the best of my ability and provide you with additional information for the upcoming work session.