



Lewiston Auburn
METROPOLITAN
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Senator Craig Hickman,
Chair Representative Mike Sylvester,
Labor and Housing Committee

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and distinguished members of the Labor and Housing Committee,

My name is Shanna Cox, and I serve as President + CEO of the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. We represent more than 700 businesses across Androscoggin County and their 40,000 employees who contribute to our local economy. I am submitting testimony concerning LD 607 - "An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers".

Our membership is deeply concerned about LD 607 and its impact on businesses across this region if it is enacted. The rapid increase of the minimum salary will be too great for many businesses to bear, particularly at this tenuous point of inflation and economic recovery. Many businesses will opt for reclassifying employees to hourly workers, and at an administrative cost burden to the business. Ultimately, this will result in a shift in how businesses structure their internal career paths, leading to restricted growth opportunities for some lower wage industry employees, and reduce the flexibility of schedule that exempt status offers some lower wage industry managers and supervisors.

We have heard concerns about the passage of LD 607 from our members concerned with workforce development, from our hospitality industry businesses, and through several formal requests to oppose these bills. This law has engaged members with a consensus of concern in an unprecedented manner. While we understand that LD 607 is well intended, it could have debilitating effects for our businesses, workers, and economy.

Sincerely,

Shanna Cox
President + CEO, Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

About the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

An organization of community-minded businesses that serves Lewiston, Auburn, and surrounding communities, the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is an engine for economic vitality and enhanced quality of life. Through issues advocacy, workforce development, and professional networking, the LA Metro Chamber helps business and community build, lead, and thrive. (lametrochamber.com)



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Contact Shanna Cox 207-615-2025 or shanna@lametrochamber.com