



Scott Cuddy

47 Elm Street

Winterport, ME 04496

Phone: (207) 944-1662

Scott.Cuddy@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Testimony of Representative Scott Cuddy in Support of LD 607 An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers.

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing my name is Scott Cuddy and I represent House District 98, which is comprised of Frankfort, Searsport, Swanville, and Winterport. I am here today to ask for your support for LD 607 An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers.

There have been a number of attempts to address the issue of low-paid but salaried managers being made to work long hours without receiving overtime pay. In fact, we heard a very similar bill in the last legislature.

At the time I heard a great deal from opponents talking about the cost. I want to remind this committee that this cost is currently being paid by the employee. The cost is being paid in terms of nights away from family, less sleep, more stress, less of a life outside of work. The cost is being paid by someone who is living to work, not working to live.

The work week in this country was defined by people who wanted an end to their work week. They wanted two days for themselves, for their family, and for their faith. The five other days in the week were broken down like this: $\frac{1}{3}$ for work, $\frac{1}{3}$ for family, and $\frac{1}{3}$ for rest. We have 120 hours in those 5 day, so we get 40 hours for work, 40 hours for family, and 40 hours for rest.

Overtime isn't supposed to be a boon for the employee, it's supposed to make the employer think twice about trying to take our time for family and rest. If employers want this extra time they have to buy it at a premium. This principle has been degraded over time and LD 607 seeks to redress this problem. *If there are times when an employee should be required to work more than 40 hours without overtime it should*

come at a high salary, because the employer is taking that employee's family and rest time.

I urge the committee to pass LD 607. I'm available for any questions you may have.