



Manufacturers Association of Maine

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On Behalf of the Manufacturers Association of Maine

In Opposition to

LD 607 *An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers*

March 22, 2021

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, good morning. My name is Jessica Laliberte. I am the policy relations manager for the Manufacturers Association of Maine. We are a non-partisan industry organization representing 400 Maine businesses and the 29,000 workers they employ. We are a pro-growth, pro-manufacturing organization. It is important to note many of our business members are employee-owned (ESOP) companies.

I am here today in opposition of **LD 607, *An Act to Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers***. Maine is a beautiful state; majestic mountains, scenic ocean shores, hardworking neighbors who look after one another, but Maine needs to do better for folks who want to operate businesses here. We rank near the bottom in best states to do business.

This bill would significantly increase the threshold employers must pay exempt or salaried employees until the rate is 4,500 times the state minimum wage in 2024. Passage of such legislation would make Maine an outlier. How does LD 607 align with the governor's strategic economic plan which seeks to maintain a stable business environment, grow the economy, and attract new talent?

This proposal seeks to place yet another regulation upon businesses many of which are struggling amid the COVID 19 pandemic. This bill would make it more difficult to attract new business, retain existing ones and limit job growth based on the increased cost of doing business- all things which stand in conflict with Governor Mills' economic plan.

Manufacturing in Maine provides jobs for nearly 55,000 people and accounts for 12% of all wages paid in the state. MAME members provide jobs in aerospace, metal, paper, marine/boat building, semiconductor, wood, textile, aquaculture, biotech, medical device, electronics, RF and wireless communications, plastics, composites and bioplastics, studio and food and beverage manufacturing.

MAME strongly opposes **LD 607, *An Act to Restore Overtime Protection to Maine Workers*** and urges an ought not to pass vote. Thank you for your consideration.