

March 20, 2021

Senator Craig Hickman, Chair
Representative Michael Sylvester, Chair
Members of the Labor and Housing Committee

RE: Testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 607, An Act to Restore Overtime Protection for Maine Workers

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

My name is Jacob Stevens and I am part-owner of Leeward, a restaurant in downtown Portland. I am a resident of Falmouth. I am writing this letter to testify in opposition to LD 607.

Under current Maine law, the salary threshold for whether or not an employee is exempt from overtime or not is calculated at 3000x the prevailing minimum wage. The current threshold is \$36,450 a year. It will continue to increase with the minimum wage. LD 607 would set an unrealistic and unsustainable salary threshold. Increasing this threshold to \$47,816 in less than 2 years and increasing it even further to \$55,224 in another 12 months as suggested by LD 607 would put employers in a very difficult situation. Employers would end up putting salaried employees back on hourly status which would result in the employee actually taking home substantially less money at the end of the year. This bill would have the net effect of eliminating well-paying salaried jobs.

I strongly urge the committee to reject LD 607

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion.

Sincerely,

Jacob Stevens