



April 6, 2023

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 1190, An Act to Ensure a Fair Workweek by
Requiring Notice of Work Schedules**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is Dirk Gouwens and I am the Executive Director of the Ski Maine Association. I live in New Portland, ME.

Maine's ski areas employ over 5000 employees in mostly rural parts of the state that are in desperate need of the jobs they provide. Two of our ski areas are the second largest employers in their county. The only larger employers are county hospitals. We work hard to establish a good relationship with our employees and work closely together to establish a work schedule that meets the needs of our employees yet still allows for the flexibility required by a business that depends largely upon our fickle weather in Maine.

This bill is simply unworkable for ski areas. Skiing depends on cold, snowy weather. Increasingly, our climate is becoming more unpredictable and our ski areas need flexibility to survive. Imagine trying to predict what the customer load will be two weeks in advance when even the best weather forecasters don't seem to be able to get it right just a couple of days ahead of time.

For example, consider trying to schedule employees for Martin Luther King weekend (typically one of our busiest weekends) two weeks in advance. Initially a ski area might need to have all hands on deck to handle the number of customers. But, with just a couple of days notice, we find out that a January thaw is predicted. Having more employees at the ski area than customers is not something a ski area can support.

Also imagine a last minute snow storm. While some businesses might need to close down, skiers flock to ski areas to take advantage of new snow. A ski area needs to call in extra workers to handle the clean up and the operation of additional facilities to support the larger than anticipated number of customers.

Finally, one needs only to look at the schedules for the various committees that meet in this building to see how unworkable this bill is. One committee that I follow closely changed its schedule four times in just a few days recently!

I strongly urge you to vote Ought Not To Pass on this bill.