



**Alison Sucy, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Government Affairs,
on Behalf of the Maine Tourism Association**

In Support of

***LD 2149, An Act to Exempt Seasonal Volunteer Ski Patrollers and Seasonal Volunteer Ski
Ambassadors and Hosts at Ski Areas from the Minimum Wage Laws***

January 23, 2024

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on
Labor and Housing:

My name is Alison Sucy and I am the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Government
Affairs for the Maine Tourism Association. The Maine Tourism Association is the state's
largest tourism organization supporting our 1500 members in every type of tourism business
such as lodging, restaurants, campgrounds, retail, guides, historical and cultural attractions, and
outdoor recreation including ski areas. I present this testimony in support of LD 2149.

There is a long history of volunteerism in the ski industry through ski patrollers in Maine and across
the country. These volunteers are critical to the success and safety of Mainers and visitors who ski
and snowboard on Maine's mountains. They provide guest safety with on-mountain medical care
and transport, chairlift evacuations, and hazard mitigation. We want our visitors to be safe, most
importantly, and have a wonderful experience so they will return year after year. Ski ambassadors
and patrollers are key to this experience.

Winter tourism is a large contributor to Maine's economy. Nearly 4 million people visited our state
in winter of 2023; and 41% of them came primarily for outdoor activities. Some 97% of all winter
visitors would recommend Maine as a vacation destination.* The state needs our ski industry to be
successful--it contributes 4,090 jobs and \$448 in total economic output.** We want to be known as
a safe and welcoming destination.

We respectfully ask that you support LD 2149. Thank you for your time and consideration of this
testimony.

The Maine Tourism Association is the state's largest advocate for all tourism-related businesses. Incorporated in 1922, MTA
members include lodging, restaurants, camps, campgrounds, retail, outdoor recreation, guides, tour operators, transportation,
amusements, and cultural and historical attractions. MTA also operates on behalf of the state seven State Visitor Information Centers
from Kittery to Calais, and annually produces the state's official travel planner, Maine Invites You (since 1933).

*Maine Office of Tourism, Downes & St. Germain, Winter Visitor Tracking Report 2023

** Ski Maine, RRC Associates, Economic Impact of Maine Ski Areas 2022-2023