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LD 1934

Members of the committee. My name is Dirk Gouwens and I am the executive Director of the Ski Maine Association. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1934. Ski areas have specific requirements for night lighting which are defined by the ASTM in section RP-6. These standards are updated every few years and ski areas must comply with these requirements in order to avoid law suits that could result from non-compliance if an injury would occur due to insufficient lighting. Specifically in LD 1934 section 2F requires outdoor sports lighting to comply with a number of requirements that are listed. Just below in section 2F4 there is an exemption for outdoor sports lighting during seasonal usage. These sections are conflicting and confusing and need to be clarified.

Also ski area specific lighting does not have shielding and cannot be modified without violating manufacturers requirements. Ski area lighting cannot be shielded because this creates dark spots on the slopes which can lead to accidents and law suits due to poor

visibility. Ski area specific lighting is 5000 degrees Kelvin which provides the best illumination on snow and has been tested for many years.

Ski area lighting needs to be angled from their location at the edge of the slope across the slope to light the entire area. This also creates shadows which are desirable to enhance definition and depth perception.

Several engineers have provided data to ANSI regarding ski area lighting specifying why lights should not be shielded, need to be angled upwards to aim across the area and not downward which creates dark spots.

In short, ski areas need to have an unconditional exemption from this type of legislation which will not allow Maine ski areas to comply with nationally recognized standards established to maximize safety in the hill. Failure to follow these nationally recognized rules will open ski areas up to significant law suits.