

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 30, 2023 TO MAY 6,  
2023 AS NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, America's strongest economic growth in almost 40 years has been driven by the resilience of our small businesses, which continue to pioneer innovative solutions to our country's greatest challenges and create opportunities for families and workers; and

**WHEREAS**, small businesses remain the heartbeat of our communities and the American economy, employing more than half of our Nation's workers, inventing and innovating to launch new technologies and create new American-led industries, enriching our Main Streets, making parts and products in America to fuel our supply chains and building our Nation's infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, over 99% of all Maine businesses are small businesses, including loggers and truckers; guides and lodge owners; fishing operations and other businesses on Maine's working waterfronts; restaurants, bakeries and farms of all kinds; manufacturers; artists; and many more; and

**WHEREAS**, entrepreneurship continues to be one of the best pathways to the American Dream, evidenced by the remarkable small business boom, with more than 10.5 million Americans applying to start a business since January 20, 2021, a number greater than in any other 2-year period in American history; and

**WHEREAS**, by renewing our commitment to supporting small businesses, we can build a stronger Maine where everyone can succeed, from the bottom up and middle out; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States has proclaimed National Small Business Week every year since 1963 to highlight the programs and services available to entrepreneurs through the United States Small Business Administration and other government agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, Maine supports and joins in this national effort to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the American economy and their importance in ensuring that our local communities remain as vibrant tomorrow as they are today; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, recognize April 30, 2023 to May 6, 2023 as National Small Business Week.