

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 2, 2023

Dear Friends,

I join you all in spirit at this afternoon's presentation. This event is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the remarkable story behind Dr. Herman Schütze's 1929 Allgäu skis and reflect on the power of skiing to unite people across cultures, generations and nationalities. Thank you to the Schütze family, Dr. Steven Reinfurt, the team at the Abenaki Ski Area and everyone else who played a part in the journey of these skis from Bad Kissingen in Bavaria to the Town of Wolfeboro. It's also an honor to welcome – both virtually and in person – our German friends and dignitaries to New Hampshire.

Many New Hampshire residents – and just as many visitors to the Granite State – spend their winters exploring our state's trails and beautiful landscapes on a pair of skis. Skiing is our official state sport, a way of life for many people in the region and a reason why many tourists return to New Hampshire season after season.

Yet skiing is not simply an outlet to discover the outdoors and explore the natural world. It also offers a meaningful connection to a variety of people, ideas, experiences and stories. Skiing can help create a profound sense of community in places like the Abenaki Ski Area – where countless families since 1936 have grabbed hold of the tow rope and made fast friends skiing down the hill. It can help unite fellow skiers across the world who share a love of the pastime. It can help sustain the memory of someone like Dr. Herman Schütze – whose prized skis represented an enduring link to a loving husband and father taken far too soon.

Every skier who visits the Abenaki Ski Area will find deep meaning in the story behind these wooden skis. Thank you again to the Schütze family and Dr. Reinfurt for sharing it with Wolfeboro and the Granite State. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator