

Maine Climate Action **NOW!**

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

From: Amy Eshoo, Maine Climate Action Now

Date: February 5, 2024

Re: LD 373 An Act to Improve Labor Conditions for Maine Workers - OUGHT TO PASS

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and Honorable members of the Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Amy Eshoo. I am a resident of North Yarmouth and Director for Maine Climate Action Now, a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations who support transformative action in response to the climate crisis.

Our work as a coalition is to center equity and justice in climate action especially in the transition towards clean renewable energy. Our state has one of the most ambitious renewable energy requirements in the country with a goal of increasing our renewable portfolio standard to 80% by 2030 and a goal of 100% carbon neutrality by 2045. In order to make us resilient in the face of the worst effects of climate change and reach our ambitious reduction goals, we need to prioritize building out our clean energy infrastructure.

Our state is set to receive significant federal monies from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act to transform our climate, energy, broadband, and other physical infrastructure. We need all our skilled workers to build out our clean energy generation capacity. MCAN supports this bill to ensure that the resulting jobs are high-quality jobs for Maine workers and that quality assurance standards protect the state's investment in such critical infrastructure.

Labor harmony, as outlined in this bill, will help ensure that the massive federal money Maine invests won't be held up by labor unrest. Passing this bill would mean that these sectors get built out at the speed and scale required without costly disruptions from avoidable labor disputes. We don't want anything to slow our goal of creating the clean energy future we urgently need and creating the infrastructure our future demands.

The three areas of the economy that will be affected by this bill are central to our fight against climate change, will bring hundreds of millions of dollars of investment to Maine, and cannot wait. Please vote Ought to Pass as Amended on LD 373. Thank you for your consideration.