



AGC MAINE

THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

Testimony of Kelly Flagg in Opposition to LD 376 “An Act To Repeal the Law Regarding the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program”

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee, my name is Kelly Flagg, I am the Executive Director of Associated General Contractors of Maine (AGC Maine).

AGC Maine is a statewide construction trade association founded in 1951 by contractors, suppliers, and service providers. Besides our advocacy work on legislative and regulatory matters, we also provide education for incumbent and future skilled workers.

Growing and maintaining the knowledgeable and capable skilled workforce required to build Maine’s infrastructure requires both training and predictable, reliable work available. The industry has made tremendous progress in the last few years after uncertainty in the market during the pandemic. Currently, we’ve successfully built a skilled workforce with more than 32,000 active workers here in Maine.

Encouraging developers to invest in Maine requires state policies that are clear and consistent. Maine has rigorous permitting regulations set in place by those who sat in the same chairs you now occupy at the Maine State House. This bill sends a signal that Current Maine lawmakers are comfortable changing the laws and rules even after a project is already in process. It's become increasingly clear that our state's future financial success depends on the ability to adequately manage our energy future. AGC Maine supported the New England Clean Energy Connect and the value it delivered to the State in both jobs and energy supply. Regardless of your opinion on that project, we are quickly learning that policy leaders have become increasingly comfortable with changing the process midstream, and that hasn’t gone unnoticed by developers and contractors. It has distinct and significant costs to our industry and our future.

We at AGC are proud to support LS Power and Longroad’s King Pine development, where the generation and transmission are built here, on our land. It’s not often we have projects in our state that span multiple years and yield strong economic benefits. But even greater, controlling energy assets within our border makes our state stronger, with independence from global politics and market fluctuations. If we learned anything from our dependence on energy providers overseas, controlling energy provides an advantage for many generations. I urge this Committee to reject this bill and let the process work as originally intended.

Thank you, I am happy to answer any questions.