

Local 4 International Union of OPERATING ENGINEERS

William D. McLaughlin
Business Manager
International Trustee

office@iuoelocal4.org



16 Trotter Drive
Medway, Massachusetts 02053
Telephone (508) 533-1433
Fax (508) 533-1430

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To: Members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

Subject: Testimony – LD 1709

Dear Chair Roberts and Chair Curry and Honorable Members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

My name is Robert Burr, I live in Scarborough ME and I am a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), Local 4 based in Medway, Massachusetts with offices in Portland Maine. The IUOE has approximately 500 members in the Great State of Maine. If you are unfamiliar with the role of the IUOE, our Members, Operating Engineers, operate the bulldozers, the motor graders, the backhoes, the cranes and outside construction hoists helping to form and shape the infrastructure and skylines. We work the mines; we dig the wells. We operate the boilers, the generators, and the heating and cooling systems, as well as maintain the buildings and grounds, that help make you comfortable at work and play. Operating Engineers are the first on a construction job and the last off. When it involves a commercial or industrial complex, stationary engineers are there long after the construction is finished, operating, and maintaining the completed facility.

The IUOE is dedicated to serving and protecting the needs and interests of its Members and their families through the collective bargaining process, legislative action and extensive training and skills improvement programs. In continuous operation since the 1800's, the IUOE's dedication to Members is unmatched with its efforts focused on safety and continued employment in a quality work environment where pay and benefits match the skill of IUOE Members. **I am here to express the IUOE's commitment to work with the Department and Administration on public safety surrounding the hoisting industry in Maine.**

As you know we have been discussing this legislation over the past few years. The IUOE Local 4 and our Certified Crane Instructors have been to this committee and discussed continuing education needs around these large pieces of equipment. They in fact share data and work together on a personal level with OSHA and State Officials within our jurisdiction.

In conclusion, this bill will help us get much needed data on crane operation and safety within the State of Maine. We welcome working with ALL stakeholders in this effort to develop structure in addition to Federal guidelines. Thank you for your consideration. I hope that you will support the advancement of this legislation:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

Robert A. Burr
Business Representative