

Testimony of the Maine Labor Climate Council in Opposition to LD 2133

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business my name is Scott Cuddy. I'm the Director of Policy for the Maine Labor Climate Council (MLCC) and live in Winterport. I'm also a licensed Journeyman electrician, and a Journeyman Wireman with IBEW 1253. I'm here today to speak in opposition to LD 2133 in its current form.

The MLCC is a coalition of 16 public and private sector unions focused on fighting Climate Change and income inequality at the same time.

I'd like to start by thanking Rep. Collamore for looking for ways to address getting more kids into the trades. It is a good life and a good livelihood. When I served with Rep. Collamore I knew her to be a serious person who wants what is best for the state of Maine.

As I said earlier, in its current form, MLCC is opposed to this bill. In short, we don't feel that a CTE's classroom program should qualify students for a Journeyman-in-Training license, nor should it replace 1,000 hours of work experience.

It is our understanding that interested parties will be meeting to discuss the sponsor's aims for the bill. We appreciate the process and the sponsor's willingness to discuss the contents of LD 2133.