



AGC MAINE

THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

March 7, 2024

Senator Rotundo, Chair
Representative Sachs, Chair
Distinguished Members of the Appropriations and
Financial Affairs Committee

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my name is Matt Marks, I am a Principal at Cornerstone Government Affairs, and I am sending this letter on behalf of my client AGC Maine in support of the budget request for additional positions within the Governor's Energy Office.

It's our understanding that the positions would be dedicated to working with the Federal Government to continue an important program funding workforce training. Two clean energy partnership positions would assist employers with current and future grants. As I've shared with the Committee, the construction industry has made tremendous achievements in rebuilding the construction workforce. The demand continues to accelerate, and we anticipate continued attrition with our aging workforce.

AGC Maine was the recipient of a grant administered by the Governor's Energy Office. While the energy market continues growth in Maine, the education provided by AGC Maine has layers of crossover with additional construction work. The Governor's Energy Office has been proactive in the development of the workforce in Maine through analysis of workforce needs and connecting employers to funding programs that have opened doors for skilled workers in this exciting field.

Below are some statistics that reflect the outcomes in the first year of the program:

Clean Energy Workforce Training:

Instructors trained-12

AGC Maine provided train-the-trainer programs in critical areas including crane operations, crane practical examiners, first aid and CPR, and programs through the National Center for Construction Education and Research.

Crane Operators Classroom - 96 students

AGC Maine teaches a course recognized by ANSI resulting in a nationally recognized certification by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO). NCCCO is the gold standard in crane instruction and the program is intensive in instruction and critical to both safety and operator knowledge.

Crane Practical Exams - 53 participants

NCCCO requires that each participant pass a practical exam on the type of crane they intend to operate and are seeking certification. This is a field training and exam with specific course guidelines and examiner credential requirements.

Rigger Signal Certification - 70 participants

Moving, lifting, and hoisting material, equipment and other gear requires detailed education. AGC Maine uses a nationally recognized program to instruct students in practical and classroom exercises to obtain their certification cards.

Clean Energy Related Apprentices registered

In addition to the certifications and education programs, AGC Maine manages an apprenticeship program that is used by Maine contractors. It's important to note that the participants receive both classroom and field training, known as on-the-job training under supervision. The following are new apprentices that entered this program along with 20 additional participants placed in a company program that provides services for clean energy and heavy construction work.

Crane Mechanic 2

Crane Operator 2

Welder 1

Electrical 6

Earthworks 10

Pre-apprentices served between private programs & MCA

AGC Maine launched a program known as the Maine Construction Academy. The primary objective is to connect high school students to the construction industry in an introductory program. While the clean energy partnership grant is leveraged for a portion of this effort, and not all students will enter that field, it is part of the Academy. Last year 155 individuals attended the program and in 2024 planned growth will provide additional learning throughout Maine.

Currently, AGC Maine has 52 active apprentices learning on the job, and 19 companies have adopted at least one apprentice craft position. AGC Maine is proud to celebrate the first year of moving from individual certifications to the formalized approved apprenticeship pathway. This grant, along with other private and public funding is essential to meeting the demand in the construction industry. I want to thank the members of the Committee for considering our letter and we welcome any questions, comments, or visits to any of the active training courses we are conducting.