



# Professional Fire Fighters of Maine

*Affiliated with the International Association of Fire Fighters*

**Testimony of Michael Scott, President  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025**

## **LD 187 – “An Act to Prohibit Labor Organizations from Imposing Mandatory Service Fees on Nonmembers”**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and other esteemed members of the Labor Committee. My name is Michael Scott, I live and work in the City of Auburn. I’m here to testify in opposition of LD 187 as the President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine, representing over 1,200 First Responders and their families across the State of Maine. Thank you for this important opportunity to speak on behalf of the brave men and women who serve as first responders.

First, it’s important to understand that labor organizations play a critical role in ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and securing benefits for all workers. When a worker benefits from the collective bargaining power of a union—whether or not they choose to be a member—they are receiving the fruits of the labor and effort invested by the union in negotiating on their behalf.

This bill undermines the principle of fairness. It essentially allows individuals to "free ride" on the benefits that unions secure without contributing to the costs of maintaining those benefits. It’s important to note that the services unions provide—ranging from collective bargaining to workplace protections—require significant resources, including time, effort, and legal expertise. Nonmembers, who still benefit from these services, should contribute a fair share to support them.

Additionally, the financial stability of labor organizations relies on these fees to ensure that they can continue to represent workers effectively. Reducing the funding available to unions through the removal of these fees would directly undermine their ability to advocate for workers’ rights, provide legal support, and negotiate fair contracts. This bill would disproportionately harm the workers who rely most heavily on unions for protection and advocacy.

This proposed legislation is also a step backward in promoting economic equality. By limiting the resources unions can access, we make it more difficult for workers to have an organized voice in the workplace. In a time when working families are facing rising costs, labor organizations provide an essential counterbalance to corporate power, fighting for higher wages, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

In conclusion, this bill not only limits the ability of unions to operate effectively, but it also undermines the values of fairness, equality, and shared responsibility in the workplace. I urge you to vote against this bill and protect the rights of working people to have strong, effective unions that advocate for their best interests.

Thank you for your time and I would be pleased to address any questions you may have.