

Glenon Friedmann
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LD 471

My name is Glenon Friedmann and I am a resident of Bar Harbor. I am an owner of the business, Bar Harbor Farm. On Mount Desert Island there is a shortage of workers in all the trades and in the hospitality industry. In my business, I see this shortage most acutely in trying to find a plumber, an electrician, a carpenter, a refrigeration specialist. My business, as most businesses on Mount Desert Island, relies on a network of tradespeople to keep us operational. Our situation reflects a worker shortage problem across the state as our population ages and our demographics decline. I see new immigrants as a clear resource to meet this challenge.

On the one side we have immigrants coming into the state with a myriad of skills and talents eager for a new beginning. On the other side we have an aging workforce and a worker shortage. LD 471 addresses one of the obstacles in the way of taking advantage of this resource. Investing in ESL training is an investment in the health of our economy.