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INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA – UAW

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SHAWN FAIN, *PRESIDENT* • MARGARET MOCK, *SECRETARY-TREASURER*  
VICE-PRESIDENTS: CHUCK BROWNING • MIKE BOOTH • RICH BOYER

## UAW Memorandum in Support of LD 1533

Dear Committee Members,

UAW Region 9A strongly supports LD 1533. The University of Maine Graduate Workers began organizing with the UAW in early 2023 and won recognition that fall. Since then, our members have been bargaining with the University to win a first contract that recognizes the labor graduate workers put into the University of Maine system on a daily basis.

Our members fundamentally believe in the promise of the University of Maine system, and we want the system to thrive. University of Maine must live up to its mission to be the hub of academic research, intellectual curiosity, and civic life we know it can be—and it can only do this if it retains its status as an R1 research institution.

LD1533 achieves this goal by providing around \$8 million over two years to fund enough graduate students to ensure that UMaine's PhD graduation commitments maintain the R1 research status. Our graduate workers are often the first to suffer from cutbacks, and at a time when science and research funding is under attack nationally, it is more important than ever for Maine to commit to ensuring the UMaine system retains the R1 status.

By passing this bill, we would reduce the uncertainty or instability from federal funding chaos and ensure that Graduate Worker research progresses. We know instability is a guarantee from the federal level right now. We as Mainers know we should ensure that this critical research being done in the University of Maine system is not disrupted.

We were only two graduates away from losing this status over the last two years—we cannot leave this critical status to chance. We already know that potential new graduate student workers are questioning whether to come to the UMaine system due to this potential funding cut hanging over their head. This leaves the entire UMaine system in a precarious balance we cannot accept. Therefore, we strongly implore the members of the committee to vote yes on LD1533.