

Ironworkers Local 7
Business Agent/Industry Analyst

207-314-3530

gprovost@iwlocal7.org

May 6, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Grant Provost. I am the Business Agent for Ironworkers Local 7, Vice President for the Maine State AFL-CIO, and Recording Secretary for the Maine State Building and Construction Trades Council. I serve on the State Workforce Board, the Central Maine and Western Maine Workforce Board, the Offshore Wind Road Map Committee, and the Prevailing Wage Board. I was elected to the Sierra Club's Maine Chapter Executive Committee and am a sitting member of the Climate Jobs National Resource Center's Board.

I come before you today neither for nor against LD 1868, An Act to Advance a Clean Energy Economy by Updating Renewable and Clean Resource Procurement Laws. This was difficult for me as I do support the environmental initiatives highlighted in the bill and have had meaningful collaboration with multiple departments. I wish I could be more supportive of my colleagues here today of this bill. I back distancing Maine from its reliance on fossil fuels for heating, transportation and electrification. I also believe in the mission of our friends here in the environmental movement, everyday they are working hard to protect our States natural resources, and I appreciate their advocacy.

For my organization Ironworkers Local 7, the congruency of procurement policy is important. It is important for developers financing clean energy projects and contractors bidding clean energy projects. It is important to Maine's construction work force, and state regulators as well as the Department of Labor's enforcement entities such as the wage and hour division.

This means the same procurement used in offshore wind is good for onshore wind. It means protections for workers found in what we refer to as the Cuddy Bill are enforced or improved upon along with being referenced in new legislation. Registered Apprenticeship numbers should be in line with Representative Maxmin's Green New Deal for Maine and follow the progressive goals of increased apprentice numbers on green energy projects. This ensures home grown energy with a home-grown well-trained workforce who will be able to afford a good life here in Maine.

We support clean energy goals set forth here by the state, we also support the broader conversation around a just transition. We want clean energy careers for Mainers to be viewed as not only making a difference but how families can succeed and flourish at home.

I stay committed to working with the Administration and its departments on what a fair and just transition to 100% clean energy by 2040 looks like. Whether the procurement section will be handled in this bill or moved to another, our support will be intertwined with policy and labor language that hopefully we all can get behind.

For years Exxon Scientists worked to prove that climate change was not only real but a self-fulfilling prophecy while the corporation openly denied it. We should see the facts for what they are and move Maine to domestic sources of clean energy without the transition coming at the expense of Maine workers.

Grant A Provost
Brunswick
LD 1868

Ironworkers Local 7
Business Agent/Industry Analyst
207-314-3530

gprovost@iwlocal7.org

May 6, 2025

Good morning, Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Grant Provost. I am the Business Agent for Ironworkers Local 7, Vice President for the Maine State AFL-CIO, and Recording Secretary for the Maine State Building and Construction Trades Council. I serve on the State Workforce Board, the Central Maine and Western Maine Workforce Board, the Offshore Wind Road Map Committee, and the Prevailing Wage Board. I was elected to the Sierra Club's Maine Chapter Executive Committee and am a sitting member of the Climate Jobs National Resource Center's Board.

I come before you today neither for nor against LD 1868, An Act to Advance a Clean Energy Economy by Updating Renewable and Clean Resource Procurement Laws. This was difficult for me as I do support the environmental initiatives highlighted in the bill and have had meaningful collaboration with multiple departments. I wish I could be more supportive of my colleagues here today of this bill. I back distancing Maine from its reliance on fossil fuels for heating, transportation and electrification. I also believe in the mission of our friends here in the environmental movement, everyday they are working hard to protect our States natural resources, and I appreciate their advocacy.

For my organization Ironworkers Local 7, the congruency of procurement policy is important. It is important for developers financing clean energy projects and contractors bidding clean energy projects. It is important to Maine's construction work force, state regulators as well as the Department of Labor's enforcement entities such as the wage and hour division.

This means the same procurement used in offshore wind is good for onshore wind. It means protections for workers found in what we refer to as the Cuddy Bill are enforced or improved upon along with being referenced in new legislation. Registered Apprenticeship numbers should be in line with Representative Maxmin's Green New Deal for Maine and follow the progressive goals of increased apprentice numbers on green energy projects. This ensures home grown energy with a home-grown well-trained workforce who will be able to afford a good life here in Maine.

We support clean energy goals set forth here by the state, we also support the broader conversation around a just transition. We want clean energy careers for Mainers to be viewed as not only making a difference but how families can succeed and flourish at home.

I stay committed to working with the Administration and its departments on what a fair and just transition to 100% clean energy by 2040 looks like. Whether the procurement section will be handled in this bill or moved to another, our support will be intertwined with policy and labor language that hopefully we all can get behind.

For years Exxon Scientists worked to prove that climate change was not only real but a self-fulfilling prophecy while the corporation openly denied it. We should to see the facts for what they are and move Maine to domestic sources of clean energy without the transition coming at the expense of Maine workers.