



## Testimony of Jason J. Shedlock neither for nor against LD 1868

**“Act to Advance a Clean Energy Economy by Updating  
Renewable and Clean Resource Procurement Laws”**

Chairs Lawrence, Sachs and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Jason J. Shedlock. I live in Portland and I’m here today to offer my testimony neither for nor against LD 1868.

I stand before you as President of the Maine Building Trades, Regional Organizer & Secretary-Treasurer of Local 327 of the Laborers’ Union and President of the Southern Maine Labor Council, the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the AFL-CIO, among other roles and responsibilities which afford me the honor of representing tens of thousands of working Mainers.

I first want to appreciate the effort made by the Governor’s Energy Office, the Governor’s Office on Policy, Innovation and the Future, and the Governor’s executive staff, to keep us apprised of the development of this bill. As part of that process, those of us who have the privilege to carry forth working families’ voices to decision-makers in Augusta were afforded the opportunity to share ways in which we can ensure Mainers can earn fair wages with benefits, along with opportunities for job training, while helping Maine meet its climate goals. Unfortunately to date those informed and educated suggestions are not yet reflected in what’s before you today. So, we have more work to do to ensure LD 1868 considers the very individuals policymakers will be counting on to achieve our goals.

I am cognizant of the tremendous opportunities that exist for Maine’s current and future workforce as we build out the infrastructure needed to meet those goals. I am excited to work with this administration to make those goals an achievable reality. To that end, I’m sure it comes as no surprise to this Committee that we feel strongly that a greener, cleaner Maine - powered by homegrown energy - and the protection and expansion of middle class careers must not be mutually exclusive. In concert, any and all efforts to achieve this energy transition must also account for, and guarantee, a just and equitable transition for those Mainers currently working in jobs related to Maine’s carbon-based energy economy.

I look forward to working with the administration - and this Committee - as we ensure continuity and predictability by carrying forward the reasonable labor standards and benchmarks that are already established for many energy projects and procurements in Maine statute and rule.

So in closing, while neither I nor the organizations I represent can express support for this legislation as written, I sincerely hope to, as I fully expect the same collaborative process that has been in place as we work to mutual agreement on this and other related bills currently before the Committee. I urge the Committee to continue their work on this bill so that all Mainers can benefit from the environmental and economic benefits of a just and equitable energy transition. We’re close, but we are not quite there yet.

