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Hi everyone, my name is Peach Cushing. I'm from Brunswick Maine. I'm asking you all to support the Peer Workforce Navigator program to the fullest extent.

After a union effort at Little Dog coffee shop in Brunswick, I was unemployed for 8 months. Finding a boss who wanted to hire a union organizer was impossible. Then I discovered the Peer Workforce Navigator program.

This program got me connected with many career opportunities through the Union Construction Academy and the Postal Bootcamp.

As a queer non-binary individual navigating the prospect of working for Trade Unions is intimidating. The union construction academy eased that tension. In this program I was connected with New Mainers who I likely would not have been connected with otherwise. The Union Construction Academy is an invaluable resource for New Mainers, Queer Folk, and Women. During my time with the UCA I met Grant Provost and was placed on the waitlist for the Iron Workers Local 7.

While on the waitlist for the Iron Workers, Leslie, q Peer workforce navigator, suggested that I attend the Postal Bootcamp. This event intrigued me because I had struggled with the application process while applying for a position at the USPS early on in my unemployment period. Thanks to this program, I was able to fix my application and land a full-time union job as a clerk at the Brunswick Post Office, where I still work today.

I encourage you all to fully support and fund this program. It generates invaluable connections, secures career pathways for marginalized groups of individuals, and supports workers who want a better world.

Thank you for your time.