



Maine Labor Climate Council
Testimony in Support of LD 1949
“An Act Regarding Energy Fairness”
Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology
Thursday, May 15, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee. My name is Francis Eanes, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Labor Climate Council (MLCC). MLCC is a coalition of labor unions across the state committed to ensuring that Maine’s clean energy transition delivers good jobs, strong communities, and a sustainable future for all working people.

I am before you today to offer testimony in support of LD 1949, specifically to Sections 1-4 of Part D of the bill. Part D aligns with Maine’s commitment to building renewable energy infrastructure in a way that ensures both quality and workforce equity. Part D prioritizes the use of registered apprenticeship programs—rigorous, nationally recognized pathways that combine classroom instruction with paid, on-the-job training. These programs not only produce highly skilled workers but also create stable career opportunities across communities in Maine, especially in construction and electrical trades critical to clean energy.

These provisions in LD 1949 are consistent with Maine Labor Climate Council’s goal of aligning Maine with the labor requirements embedded in the federal Inflation Reduction Act. Under the IRA, projects that meet prevailing wage and registered apprenticeship thresholds can unlock significantly higher federal tax credits—up to five times more in some cases. By codifying these labor standards into state policy, Maine is setting itself up for the smoothest possible access to these federal investments. This is about more than compliance—it’s about making sure that the billions in clean energy funding flow into our state quickly and efficiently, supporting both project development and high-quality job creation. While the future of federal policy is uncertain, the IRA will be the gold standard for strong renewable incentivization for years to come.

Maine Labor Climate Council is committed to all legislation that helps ensure Maine is not only ready to build the clean energy systems of tomorrow, but that we do so with a trained, local workforce earning family-sustaining wages. By embedding apprenticeship pathways into our energy policies, we are investing in people as much as infrastructure—and that’s a win for Maine’s economy, workers, and climate goals alike.

Thank you for your time, and please be in touch if there are any questions I may answer for the committee.

Respectfully,
Francis Eanes
Director, Maine Labor Climate Council