

An Act Regarding Port Facilities Relating to Offshore Wind Power Projects

Good Afternoon Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and esteem members of the Labor and Housing Committee. My name is Grant Provost, I am the Business Agent for Ironworkers Local 7 and a Maine State AFL-CIO Executive Board Member. I come before you today in favor of LD 1818 An Act Regarding Port Facilities Relating to Offshore Wind Power Projects.

The importance of this piece of legislation cannot be understated today. Maine has a revolutionary opportunity, an opportunity that won't be feasible without a dedicated port. An Offshore Wind Port focused on Floating Technology, the first in the Nation. We have a chance to lead our great State into the next phase of humanity, where we leave the Industrial Revolution behind and move into the Electrical Revolution. A port dedicated to Offshore Wind will spearhead a new industry Mainers can participate in for years to come. It will provide anchor jobs in the Building and Construction Trades for decades and give not only our college grads a chance to stay local, but thousands of apprentices will be able to use this as a launching point to their careers. Our State's Registered Apprenticeship Programs will be turning out thousands of apprentices into family sustaining union careers, reconstructing our energy infrastructure into one of the future.

This Bill will be an effective vehicle for what we can deliver to our local constituents, high quality union jobs. Or continue to spin the perpetual wheel that has held so many back here in Maine. Low pay and the lack of quality employment sends our neighbors, friends and family members out of State for work. This is a major drain on talent, would be resources to local businesses, and coincidentally is not driving the average age of Mainers lower. I have over a decade spent working in States other than my own, it's how I became a homeowner.

The simple facts are, to maximize the federal funding for port facilities States are using Project Labor Agreements and Labor Peace Agreements. None of these are new ideas, PLA's and LPA's do not prevent contractors or

developers from bidding, winning or working on a project. These agreements do create a level playing field and maximize benefits for those who not only work on the port but will work in the port after construction.

Up and down the east coast Offshore Wind Projects are being permitted, are under construction and have been completed using Project Labor Agreements. Developers not only understand PLA's and LPA's but prefer the security and guarantees they give them. Now with the Inflation Reduction Act, developers enjoy the consistent and bountiful funding a Project Labor Agreement and a Labor Peace Agreement can provide. The good news is anyone can enter into these agreements' union or none, it is a business decision.

What this Bill will do is build a port of the future for the future. Capitalizing on existing federal dollars to stay consistent with what the existing market trend is while striving for a carbon free if not carbon neutral port. A state-of-the-art facility for an emerging industry where, through our combined goals of achieving commerce that benefits local community members. Maine creates an outstanding opportunity we can hang our hats on and hand off to the next generation with pride. For we were innovators who wouldn't settle for anything other than the best for our natural resources, our environment, friends, neighbors, and families. We fought like hell, and we got it done!!! I urge the committee to vote ought to pass, making this endeavor a remarkable step in the journey to not only a carbon free Maine but a national example of how just transition can be done.

Appreciate your time,

Grant Provost

207-314-3530

gprovost@iwlocal7.org