

Testimony from Derek Proctor, in Support of L.D. 1818, "*An Act Regarding Port Facilities Relating to Offshore Wind Power Projects*"

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Derek Proctor and I'm here today to speak in favor of L.D. 1818. I'm a Journeyman Wireman with IBEW 1253 and I live in Troy.

I'm going to start by being upfront with you: I'm not sold on climate change. I totally understand that we need to get off fossil fuels to stop polluting, but I feel that much of what is occurring is part of the natural cycles that the earth goes through. So I'm here today to talk to you about how this port and these turbines should be built, not why they should be built.

I'm a proud union member, so it's no surprise that I want the building of this port and all of the work done in it to be union. But it's more than just wanting it done by my union. This is a big job, and big jobs are done union because that's the best way to get a lot of skilled workers. Because of our apprenticeship programs, all the union trades turn out quality craftsmen.

Another thing I believe is important is that once the turbines are complete and out in the ocean, any maintenance that needs to be done will probably take a lot of people, and sometimes on short notice. Again, when a job like that comes up you almost have to go union to get a lot of good people on short notice.

Here's the biggest thing for me, though: I want this work done by Mainers. Mainers should get the benefit of the money being spent on these and going union is a good way to make sure that gets done. In my union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, no one from a different local can even get on a job until all of the local people get a chance at the work. By going union with this work you'd guarantee that Mainers would get first dibs on the jobs created by offshore wind.

I haven't worked in non-union construction, but from what I hear they can put anyone to work. If someone is from Texas, Massachusetts, or Illinois that person could be hired and put to work even though there are Mainers ready to get to work. That wouldn't happen with unions. The local people would be put to work first.

To sum it up, I know that these offshore wind turbines are going to get built. My only concern is that they get built right, and that the people doing the work are Mainers and get a fair deal. To me that means building them union.

Thank you for taking the time to listen, and please vote Ought to Pass on LD 1818.