



May 18, 2023

Good afternoon Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities & the Environment I am Jason J Shedlock and I am the President of the Maine State Building & Construction Trades Council as well as a Regional Organizer, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 327 the Laborers' International Union, Local 327, based right here in Augusta My roles also include serving as Vice Chair of the Maine Apprenticeship Council, a member of the State Workforce Board, and various leadership roles within Maine's labor movement I am here to testify in support of LD 1895

In my roles working on behalf of working families, I am privileged to represent 350 Laborers' and over 6,000 Maine residents in the construction industry We know that Maine has an opportunity to be a national leader in offshore wind generation We have been told by experts at the University of Maine and others that while Maine was once miles ahead of other states in making this industry a reality, this is no longer the case. Governor Mills' climate plan's tagline is "Maine Won't Wait" We should also know that neighboring states won't wait for Maine either. The takeaway here is simple. we must not only "not wait," we must act Now. And acting means putting in place what is needed to succeed And nothing happens without a procurement process In the absence of any other approach at all, this broad and massive coalition, representing hundreds of thousands of Mainers, didn't wait We have stepped up to come up with a thoughtful and well-vetted pathway forward

And the united position and approach of this broad coalition is not based on opinion. It's based on fact, science track record, best practice I will allow my friends in the environmental movement and the environmental justice communities to speak on the reasons that this approach is necessary and prudent. I will allow my friends from the fishing industry to speak about how this approach is the only one that gives them a fighting chance to survive.

What I do know is how these structures are built elsewhere. What I know is that there is no scenario where Maine will be an outlier, allowing this industry to be built on the backs of cheap, unsafe and out of state or country labor This coalition and the hundreds of thousands of Mainers we represent, simply won't stand for it What I know is that if people want to have an academic exercise, we can talk about how we can piece together an approach that appeases those who find the common sense parameters of labor agreements distasteful, and we can waste time pretending that we somehow know something that everyone else doesn't And then we can fail Or, we can

put in place a common sense approach that builds an industry while at the same time provides an opportunity for all Mainers - and all construction companies who play by the rules - to benefit That's what LD 1895 does

Labor agreements are the only vehicle to guarantee the workers, training and opportunities for diverse communities that are necessary for us to succeed Labor agreements lean on the track record of demonstrated success that have been scaled and designed to complete huge, complicated projects And building offshore wind certainly fits that definition

As the President of the Trades Council, if I continue to be elected to this role, I am the one who will ultimately sign such an agreement And I will commit to this committee today, as I have in front of others I will sign an agreement with anyone who commits to following the rules No matter what Because it,s incumbent on all of us to get this right - the first time LD 1895 provides the roadmap Taking a detour will only lead to us watching opportunities to comprehensively address climate change and community empowerment pass us by

I am happy to answer any questions that the Committee might have

Jason J Shedlock
President, Maine State Building & Construction Trades Council
Regional Organizer, Laborers New England Region Organizing Fund
Vice President & Secretary-Treasurer of Local 327 of the Laborer's International Union
jshedlock@LNEROF.org
(207) 317-1447
Resident Portland, Maine