



Mike Tipping
Senator, District 8

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Rep. Roeder and colleagues of the Labor and Housing Committee, as you know my name is Mike Tipping and I represent Senate District 8 in central and northern Penobscot County.

I'm here to present LD 373, **An Act to Ensure Maine Employer and Employee Harmony in Climate and Energy Jobs.**

This bill, with the amendments provided, would expand on the work of this committee in ensuring federal funding to address climate, energy, communication and other physical infrastructure needs is spent wisely and efficiently and that, as the governor put it in her recent State of the State address, we make sure these investments create good, green-collar jobs.

LD 373 does this by guaranteeing that companies paid with public money involved in these kinds of projects and ongoing operations, including new development funded by the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, enter into employer and employee harmony agreements with labor unions representing workers at these infrastructure sites and projects.

It would cover clean energy developments that lease state land, broadband development contracts and grants through the Maine Connectivity Authority and the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund and transportation services, including those funded through the Multimodal Transportation Fund.

Labor harmony agreements are a compromise - workers give up their right to strike, and employers agree not to attempt to bust unions or lock out workers. The end result is that the work can get done without the threat of disruption and we can ensure public money isn't spent attempting to prevent workers from organizing.

This bill would not require project labor agreements with specific requirements around wages and working conditions, or for any contractor to be a union shop. It would make sure that we can build these vital industries at the speed and scale our state needs, address the climate crisis with the urgency that it requires and create the good, green-collar jobs we all want to see in Maine.