

LD 373 An Act to Improve Labor Conditions for Maine Workers

Good afternoon, Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Grant Provost, I am a Business Agent for Ironworkers Local 7 as well as the Vice President of the Maine State AFL-CIO. I serve on a host of boards for the State of Maine including the Maine State Workforce Board, the Central and Western Maine Workforce Board, the Maine Construction Wage Board, and the Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap Advisory Board. I am also on the Climate Jobs National Resource Center Board, the Maine State Building and Construction Trades Executive Board, The Gulf of Maine Sustainability Alliance, Mainers for Offshore Wind and New England for Offshore Wind. I am a Labor advocate through and through, pushing for our members place in the reconstruction of our state's energy infrastructure. I rise in favor of LD 373 An Act to Ensure Maine Employer and Employee Harmony in Climate and Energy Jobs.

I have been on the professional side of my local now going on 6 years, it is safe to say it has been a learning experience. Working on various bills here at the State House and testifying in front of committees has been an honor and a surprising transition for a construction worker from Central Maine. I appreciate you all taking the time to hear me speak or to read my testimony, thank you.

I believe there is a lot of good that can come out of this piece of legislation. In an unprecedented time of federal spending through passed federal bills such as Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS and Science Act, Maine is finally seeing some opportunities to invest in infrastructure, manufacturing, renewable energy and most importantly our people.

It is equally important to maximize our opportunities now and make sure each dollar is used not only responsibly but efficiently. This means using federal dollars to not only create high quality union jobs but ensure projects meet timelines while staying within project budgets. All the above Acts forementioned have robust labor standards which we should honor in Maine, as they will strengthen our communities and make a more resilient Maine for the future. Mainers are fortunate to live in a time of investment in community resilience and we should respect the millions of voters who elected the most Pro-Union President of my generation if not the history of this great nation.

I am proud to see Maine lead in the nation, the ambitious clean energy goals we have committed to will foster a cleaner environment for Mainers. Ensuring that it leads to an equitable future for Maine residents is our job and with LD 373 it sets us up for a future where Mainers can make their own choices on what they expect in the workplace. The more options our workers have the more equitable future they can make for their friends, neighbors, and loved ones. I urge the committee to vote ought to pass on this very important piece of legislation.

I am available to answer any questions now or later and/or participate in any way the committee deems useful in the future.

Appreciate your time,

Grant Provost

Business Agent/Industry Analyst

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