



International Brotherhood Electrical Workers

Local #1837 Utility / Broadcasting

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Kaitlyn Hegarty (IBEW LU 1837) testimony in support of LD 373: An Act to Ensure Maine Employer and Employee Harmony in Climate and Energy Jobs

February 6, 2024

Good afternoon, Chairman Tipping, Representative Roeder, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing,

My name is Kaitlyn Hegarty. I am a resident of Windham, Maine, and an active member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1837. I currently serve as a business representative for our union, and I am in support of LD 373.

Our union represents hundreds of skilled workers in the utility sector, including those engaged in transmission line work, across Maine and New Hampshire. The employees we represent work at companies like Central Maine Power and Versant in Maine, as well as Eversource and New Hampshire Electric Co-Op.

We also represent a group of tree trimmers, who work closely with line crews, and have the dangerous job of maintaining and removing tree limbs along the thousands of miles of transmission lines. This is not an easy job, but it's necessary to make sure power is delivered safely and reliably to hundreds of thousands of customers each day.

As a union, it is our goal to make those tree trimmers get the best treatment possible by helping them organize, which gives them the opportunity to stand on equal ground with their employers and negotiate fair wages and working conditions. This legislation will protect these hardworking men and women from potential employer lockouts during organizing drives, and it will also mitigate the risk of strikes potentially initiated by these workers who are seeking recognition from their employers.

IBEW Local 1837 believes this bill will be instrumental in fostering positive labor-management relationships, enhancing workplace safety, and ensuring the timely completion of vital projects in the state. We urge you to pass LD 373. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Hegarty

Business Rep., IBEW Local 1837

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