Maine People's Alliance

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and honorable members of the Labor and Housing Committee: My name is Mohamed Ibrahim. On behalf of the 32,000 members of Maine People's Alliance, I am pleased today to offer testimony in support of LD 373 "An Act to Improve Labor Conditions for Maine Workers."

At Maine People's Alliance, we work with a coalition of groups whose members are on the frontlines of climate change, meaning they are being affected first and worst. We know how important it is for Maine to spend the once-in-a-generation investment by the federal government to transform our climate, energy, broadband, and other key infrastructure in a way that is fast and efficient. Our members are all counting on you to pass this bill so that in our clean energy transition, we can ensure that the jobs that are created are good jobs, and that labor agreements can function as they are intended to, keeping the work flowing smoothly.

The federal Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act both recognize the important connection between a well-trained workforce and labor agreements to ensure undisturbed, continuous work, especially in key sectors like public transportation. These historic federal policies give states a lot of room to implement the labor standards as they see fit, so LD 373 is needed to provide clarity on how best to do this in Maine, and to build on the bill that Maine passed last year preventing employers from holding mandatory captive audience meetings during union organizing drives.

In conclusion, I urge you to support LD 373 and stand for the efficient, timely, and predictable completion of projects funded, contracted, or leased by the state. Let us continue to demonstrate our commitment to financial responsibility and the well-being of Maine's residents by ensuring a fair, prompt, and reliable return on taxpayer investment. This legislation will benefit the state, taxpayers, workers, and our children whose future hangs in the balance as we make this clean energy transition.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Mohamed Ibrahim