



Testimony of Glenn Adams Against LD 373 as Amended
An Act to Ensure Maine Employer and Employee Harmony in Climate and Energy Jobs
February 6, 2024

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Glenn Adams, and I am a resident of Oakland. I am the Business Development Director and an employee-owner at Sargent Corporation, and I am submitting this testimony in opposition to LD 373.

Sargent Corporation is a team of more than 460 employees working in seven states along the East Coast, and over 340 are fortunate enough to call Maine home. We build and maintain energy projects, highways, airports, commercial site work, landfill cells, and underground utilities in New England and the Mid-Atlantic region.

Sargent Corporation has a long history of building in Maine, beginning nearly 100 years ago in the small town of Alton. Recently, we achieved a significant milestone, celebrating 10 years as a 100% employee-owned company.

Requiring a project labor agreement, disguised here as a “Harmony Agreement”, creates many unknowns for most businesses located here in Maine. The bill has very few details on what will or will not be required under the agreement. It appears that it will simply be in the purview of at least one labor union to determine those conditions. It could, for example, require that Sargent’s current employees be set aside for out-of-state union workers to operate our equipment. That, for starters, is completely unacceptable.

The targeted sectors for this bill are priorities to meet Maine’s climate and business goals by providing access to broadband, improving our roads and bridges, and installing clean energy projects. Maine DOT has publicly voiced concerns over the cost of construction and the lack of competitive bidding. This season we’ve already encountered projects in Maine where only one company submitted a bid and as a result, those entire projects were rejected. Consider that for a moment, if you eliminate 90% of the market, will the remaining companies travel to every corner of Maine to deliver on these projects? Of course not, so it will result in fewer project awards and much longer timelines to meet statutory goals.

Employee ownership has accelerated our company’s growth and strengthened the financial future of employees at Sargent. I’ve worked for Sargent Corporation for 20 years and see first-hand the professional and personal benefits to our employee ownership business model. But we wouldn’t submit a bill that required employee ownership as the criterion for bidding. Every company in Maine has its strengths and weaknesses, and legislating a particular business model, especially one that has the lowest participation rate, is simply irrational.

I encourage members of the Committee to stand up for local workers and businesses here in Maine and vote against this measure.

Main Office

Telephone: 207-827-4435
Fax: 207-827-6150
3 Godfrey Drive
Orono, ME 04473

New Hampshire

Telephone: 603-734-2132
Fax: 603-734-2197
25 Spaulding Road
Unit 19
Fremont, NH 03044

Mid-Atlantic

Telephone: 804-368-7118
Fax: 804-368-7387
11139 Air Park Road
Suite 1
Ashland, VA 23005

Piedmont Triad

Telephone: 743-230-2850
Fax: 336-808-5258
8642 W Market Street
Suite 136
Greensboro, NC 27409