



**Testimony of Beth White
Maine Service Employees Association, SEIU Local 1989**

**In Support of LD 1983, "An Act to Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act"
Sponsored by Senate President Troy Jackson**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
1pm Tuesday, February 27, 2024, State House Room 214 and Electronically**

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and members of the Committee on State and Local Government, I'm Beth White, Director of Politics & Legislation for the Maine Service Employees Association, Local 1989 of the Service Employees International Union. We are a labor union representing over 13,000 Maine workers, including workers in all three branches of Maine state government.

We support LD 1983, "An Act to Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act". Over the last few decades, we have seen more and more manufacturing jobs moved overseas. LD 1983 would help address this by creating the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act. Investing in our local economy promotes growth, expands our tax base, and creates more job opportunities for Mainers. Additionally, when companies invest in their US operations, they are often held to higher labor safety standards and environmental standards.

Passing LD 1983 will invest taxpayer dollars in workers, businesses, and products made in our own backyards. It doesn't make sense for Maine to send hard earned tax dollars to countries overseas when workers here at home can do the same work at a comparable price. Other states, including New Hampshire, have already taken action to promote investment in local companies and workers. This legislation will help strengthen Maine's economy and create quality manufacturing jobs across our state.

Please support LD 1983. Thank you for your consideration.