



**MAINE MUNICIPAL  
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**Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association**

**Neither For Nor Against**

**LD 1983 - An Act to Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act**

**February 27, 2024**

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Sen. Nangle, Rep. Stover, and members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am testifying today neither for nor against LD 1983 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) who establish the position on bills of municipal interest.

Although many communities would agree that using American made materials and local labor is a laudable goal, in practice has the potential to raise the costs of projects significantly. Most importantly however, this proposed amendment preempts home rule authority by specifying which products communities may use and who may perform the work.

Local leaders have proven to be responsible stewards of taxpayer money by successfully implementing the plethora of mandates handed down by our state partners. Retaining the ability to shop around for cheaper materials is essential when determining the best fiscal approach to services and projects for their communities. Municipal functions are supported, in a large part, on the backs of the property taxpayers and rising costs, in all aspects of delivering municipal government and serving public education, exacerbate these burdens. To codify the use of certain materials and labor in statute is reckless at best, and removes the flexibility offered to communities to make decisions that work best for them.

We are in the process of polling our members on this issue and for that reason are submitting neither for nor against testimony but are prepared to update that if the poll reflects something different. I appreciate your time and thank you for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.



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