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LD 187

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. I am Representative Randy Greenwood, proudly representing my friends and neighbors in Litchfield, Monmouth and my hometown of Wales, both in Androscoggin and Kennebec Counties. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 187, "Act to Prohibit Labor Organizations from Imposing Mandatory Service Fees on Non-Members." As a legislator, I advocate for individual rights and freedom of choice. I believe this legislation is essential in ensuring that workers are not forced to pay fees to labor organizations from which they do not directly benefit.

It is important to acknowledge that not all workers wish to join or financially support a union, for various personal, financial or ideological reasons. The imposition of mandatory service fees on non-members undermines the principle of personal freedom and individual autonomy in the workplace. It is the definition of taxation without representation.

This bill promotes transparency and accountability within labor unions. It ensures that unions operate in a way that reflects the voluntary participation and genuine support of their members, rather than relying on coercive financial support from those who do not agree with their mission or practices. This will encourage unions to work harder to earn the trust and support of workers, rather than taking the membership or fee payment for granted.

Opponents of this act may argue that the service fees are necessary to sustain the union's operations, particularly in representing workers in bargaining efforts. However, it is critical to recognize that unions can seek funding through voluntary membership and contributions from those who wish to participate. Allowing workers the freedom to choose whether to financially support a union reflects the values of a democratic society that prioritizes individual freedom.

District 56 Litchfield, Wales and Monmouth

No American should be required to join a labor union just to keep a job, and no Mainer should be compelled to pay dues to an organization he or she does not believe in.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support this bill as a step toward protecting workers' rights to choose whether or not to financially support labor organizations.

It reinforces the importance of individual liberty, fairness and personal autonomy in the workplace. I urge the committee to pass this legislation and ensure that workers are not unfairly burdened by mandatory service fees to which they have not consented.

Thank you and I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.