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*Testimony of Representative Kilton Webb in Opposition to*  
**LD 187, An Act to Prohibit Labor Organizations from Imposing  
Mandatory Service Fees on Nonmembers**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor*

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Labor Committee, my name is Kilton Webb, and I represent House District 98, which includes Durham, Pownal, and parts of Bowdoin, Lisbon and Topsham. Additionally, I am the Director of Membership Development for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 567. I am testifying in opposition to LD 187.

Back when I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life, I found the endless options out in front of me to be daunting. So many paths to choose, but so many were expensive to get into and there was so little certainty. I settled on getting into the trades and specifically, becoming an electrician. There are a few different paths on how to make that dream a reality. You can go to a trade school, take one of our community college's certificate programs, or what I ultimately chose, join an apprenticeship program.

The IBEW's Apprenticeship Program was life changing for me and the hundreds of other Mainers looking for a better future who have joined and graduated in the 8 years since I began my electrical career. A key point to highlight in all of this is that our union has made this program affordable to anyone who wants to join. What makes a union strong is the individual members inside that union who come together to pool their resources to create life-changing opportunities like this program.

"Right to Work" is designed to slowly strangle and kill unions like mine. This legislation seeks to make it harder for New Electricians to join our Collective Bargaining Agreement and allows non-members to gain all the benefits that a union provides, incentivizing a culture of freeloading. Here is an analogy to describe "Right to Work" in action:

Imagine if, as a member of a town, you had access to all the amenities provided by the municipality – fire protection, trash pickup, the local elementary school and any other service your town offers. Now imagine if taxes were also optional. How long before those services must be cancelled or rolled back? Do we expect there to be a realistic way to expand those services everyone agrees are necessary? I don't think so.

“Right to Work” looks to choke and smother unions like mine and make it harder for everyday Mainers to get ahead and make a better future for themselves. For this reason, I urge you to vote “Ought Not to Pass” on LD 187.

Thank you for your time.