Testimony from Mike McGuigan, in opposition to L.D. 187, "An act to Prohibit Labor Organizations from imposing Mandatory Service Fees on Nonmembers"

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, my name is Mike McGuigan, and I am here to speak in opposition to L.D. 187. I'm a Business Rep/Organizer with the Carpenter's Union, I am a member of local 352, I represent Maine Carpenters in locals 349 and 352 and I live in Windham.

So called RTW legislation LD 1636 was killed in the Sate House in June of 2023. Here we go again! This legislation is designed to confuse people into thinking if it doesn't pass it takes away peoples right to go to work when it does just the opposite. Anti-union RTW laws significantly undermine union's ability to bargain effectively by allowing employees to opt out of paying dues while still receiving the benefits of union representation. Its very deceptive and disingenuous, states where RTW has passed have lower wages, far less to no employee benefits compared to states without it.

So called RTW laws weaken the middle class, it weakens the union which in turn gives less leverage to address workplace safety, fair treatment and working conditions. The decline in unionization can negatively affect business for the state by weakening the workforce, it could discourage investors/developers from doing business where you have a weakened, untrained, and unsafe workforce.

So called "RTW" is wrong for Maine plain and simple. It deprives workers of their freedom to join and form strong unions if they so choose to. Real freedom is the ability to stand together with your coworkers to negotiate for things like retirement security, workplace safety and better benefits, and that's precisely what will go away if RTW passes. So called RTW is bad for Maine and every blue collard worker in the state union or non-union, its simply anti-union, union busing legislation that hurts everyone. It should be abolished permanently; I ask you to oppose L.D. 187. Thank you.