



**Testimony of Garrett Mason
in Support of LD 509
"An Act to Allow a Journeyman Electrician to Supervise 3 Helper Electricians"**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, My name is Garrett Mason. I am a resident of Lisbon Falls and a Partner at Dirigo Public Affairs. I am here today representing our client, the Associated Builders and Contractors of Maine.

While we understand that the sponsor has decided to ask the committee for an ought not to pass report, we thank him for putting the bill forward and believe it is timely and has merit.

Maine is currently facing a critical shortage of skilled tradespeople, especially in the construction and electrical sectors. This shortage is contributing to delays in housing development, renovations, and overall economic growth. The construction industry cannot meet these demands without an adequately trained workforce, and LD 509 offers a solution by enabling journeymen to supervise a greater number of helpers.

While we recognize that some individuals may have concerns about the bill's potential impact on safety, we believe that LD 509 will help ensure more electricians are trained in a safe and timely manner, preparing them to meet the demands of the workforce. Our members are committed to safety and proper education. The passage of LD 509 will not change that commitment.

ABC Maine believes LD 509 is a step forward in addressing one of the workforce shortages in Maine's construction industry in a safe and inclusive way. Through this bill we are creating more opportunities for training, which will create a stronger, safer, and more capable workforce.

We would ask the committee to support LD 509 and vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your time and consideration.