

CIANBRO

LD-681, "An Act Regarding Public Higher Education Funding in the State" (4-3-2025)

Good afternoon, Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and respective members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Tim C. Walton, I am a resident of Livermore, and I am providing testimony today on behalf of CIANBRO in support of LD-681.

CIANBRO is a 100% employee-owned construction and construction services firm headquartered in Pittsfield, Maine, routinely operating in over 40 States and employing over 4,000 team members; over 1,300 of which are Maine residents.

We have enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Maine Maritime Academy (MMA), engaging in its program offerings and welcoming many of its graduates to our team over the years. The academy has played a significant role in helping us develop the world class team we have today. MMA is recognized globally as a leading educational source while working with companies like ours to develop a highly trained, capable and disciplined workforce, readying its students to meet the needs of the ever-changing and evolving business and industry markets.

One of only six state maritime academies in the United States, Maine Maritime is responsible for bringing millions of dollars of investment into the state and for linking Maine and Maine state government with the global maritime industry. Indeed, MMA is a significant educational asset to our great state.

LD 681 would help MMA reach funding equity with its peers in Maine's higher education systems and the other state maritime academies around the country. By making incremental increases to MMA's operational budget, as this bill prescribes, we can bring it on par with its peers and ensure its long-term viability and success.

We respectfully urge you to vote ought to pass on this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration of our position on this matter.