



Mark W. Lawrence  
Senator, District 35

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

***Testimony of Senator Mark W. Lawrence introducing***

**LD 1420, Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Ensure a Just and Equitable Energy Transition for Maine's Workforce**

***Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology***

**April 16, 2025**

Chair Sachs and esteemed colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Mark Lawrence. I am the State Senator from District 35 in southern York County, proudly representing Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit, South Berwick, and York. I am here today to present LD 1420, Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Ensure a Just and Equitable Energy Transition for Maine's Workforce.

As Maine transitions from our heavy reliance on fossil fuels towards a clean energy future in an effort to preserve our planet and lower future costs, we must do so with integrity and consideration for the hardworking men and women who will help us get there. We must ensure that the workers of today and tomorrow have quality training and safe working conditions to complete these projects. That is the goal of the bill before you today.

LD 1420 would establish and convene the Commission to Ensure a Just and Equitable Energy Transition for Maine's Workforce. The Commission will evaluate Maine's current energy workforce, including compensation and benefits, and assess workforce demands to meet the State's energy goals. It will also examine the types and numbers of jobs needed, analyze current pay and benefits for those roles, and review efforts to ensure a just and equitable transition for energy workers—such as minimizing compensation loss, identifying transferable skills, and addressing training needs.

Additionally, the Commission will consider the economic impact of the energy transition on low-income ratepayers and explore how a well-compensated workforce supports state energy objectives. Lastly, it will evaluate the potential benefits of establishing a coordinated statewide entity or framework to guide a just transition for workers and support employers in the energy sector.

The Commission would include bipartisan representation from the Maine Senate and House, members of the public working in labor, energy and environmental fields, the Maine Apprenticeship Council, the Governor's Office and the Public Utilities Commission.



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My family's working class roots run deep as I am the son of a local former shipbuilder and now a proud union father. As we continue our transition to clean energy in conjunction with the "Maine Won't Wait" plan, we must properly prepare and support the workforce who will help us get there.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill, I am happy to answer any questions you have. Representatives from our labor community are here to speak in greater depth to this bill.