

Good afternoon, my name is Jordan Roes, and I'm a licensed apprentice electrician in the great state of Maine and proud member of IBEW local union 1253.

This bill isn't just a policy issue to me, this is about my livelihood. For the past 4 years I've worked on solar array projects across Maine. These jobs aren't just cleaner for the planet, they're safer, higher-paying, and more reliable than much of the other work available in this state with an aging infrastructure. Every time our state invests in renewable energy, it's not just helping the environment—it's putting skilled tradespeople like me to work.

The clean energy industry has given me financial stability, and it's kept my coworkers and myself working year-round, even when other construction sectors slow down. As someone who has recently been laid off I've seen first hand the effects of lack of funding this year. There are many apprentices and journeymen waiting for work right now, and this is happening all over the country.

LD 1868, if it would include strong labor standards, helps ensure that clean energy development in Maine supports local job creation. We need policies like this to make sure that as we build a clean energy future, for us and for future generations, and keep our young tradespeople working and living in Maine.

Thank you for your time, and for the opportunity to speak today.