



# MAINE AFL-CIO

*A Union of Unions Standing for Maine Workers*

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## **Testimony of Maine AFL-CIO Legislative & Political Director, Adam Goode, in support of LD 725, "An Act to Advance Equitable Energy Policy in Maine"**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, my name is Adam Goode. I'm the Legislative and Political Director of the Maine AFL-CIO. We represent 40,000 working people in the state of Maine. We work to improve the lives and working conditions of our members and all working people. We testify in support of LD 725.

When the people of the state of Maine's money gets spent on building, upgrading, or insulating anything it should create high quality jobs. Jobs that pay well so workers and their families have a good life, offer the kind of benefits that keep Maine families from being financially ruined by illness and injury, and allow the workers to retire in dignity.

Currently, we do not know what the quality of jobs are that are produced by the programs of Efficiency Maine Trust. They might be high quality jobs, they might not be. What LD 725 proposes is that we find out what kind of jobs are being produced with hundreds of millions of dollars of Mainer's money.

LD 725 seeks to gather basic information about these jobs. How much are the workers being paid? Do they get benefits? Are the workers able to advance through skills training? What are the demographics of the workforce?

We at the Maine AFL-CIO are particularly pleased to see that the sponsor has asked to study the usage rate of Maine's registered apprenticeship programs. We do not currently have enough people working in the trades in Maine, and if we're not using state dollars to incentivize programs that are currently training the next generation of Maine tradespeople we are missing out on a huge opportunity.

We want to note, as well, that the inclusion of an advisory group that will help to oversee the study is a very positive idea. The current make up of that group represents a diverse range of individuals who are involved in the training of tradespeople. This will benefit the overall study by ensuring that differing viewpoints are brought to bear on the questions LD 725 seeks to have answered.

One suggestion we would offer if the bill is amended would be to allow the Trust and the advisory group to add different issues to be studied and reported on. While we believe the sponsor has done an excellent job of identifying issues to be studied, the advisory group may

have additional issues they think should be addressed as well, and some flexibility in the legislation would be helpful in that regard.

Having said all of this, we offer our support for LD 725 and ask that you vote Ought To Pass on this bill. Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.