



Testimony of Jason Stutheit
President of DP Porter, Inc of Hermon
On Behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors
In Favor of LD's: 144, 414, 516, 517, 680

Good afternoon Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs committee my name is Jason Stutheit. I am a resident of Brooks and I am here to testify in favor of the slate of CTE bills that is in front of you today.

I am the President of DP Porter Contractors a residential and light commercial general contractor based in Hermon. Our work can be seen and enjoyed in familiar places around the state. We have built schools, restaurants, and much more. We're proud of our record and our contribution to the building trade. DP Porter is also a member of Associated Builders and Contractors and today I am testifying on their behalf.

Associated Builders and Contractors is a statewide trade organization of over 170 companies that ascribe to the merit shop philosophy and advocate for the construction industry and our member companies when it comes to matters of public policy. ABC is committed to the growth of the construction industry throughout the state and realize the important role that education plays in the future of our industry.

ABC believes that CTE is a core element in solving our state's workforce shortage. We are happy that Governor Mills and the Department of Economic and Community Development agree. Last year the Mills administration released a 10-year strategic plan that outlines seven strategies to achieve, as the report puts it, a diverse and sustainable economy. ABC and our member companies were happy to see that growing local talent through CTE was very high on the list of tasks to accomplish.

CTE programs are a pipeline for new workers and a center for providing Maine kids with skills that will lead to good paying jobs. In order to ensure that these skills are marketable to employers like DP Porter and other ABC member companies we must close the skills gap. According to the Association for Career and Technical Education, 51% of jobs in Maine require skills training. This is classified as more education than high school, but less than a 4 year college degree. Only 47% of Maine workers are trained at this level.

Maine does not lack for students interested in the programs. During the 2018-2019 school year, Maine had 8,369 secondary CTE participants and 8,119 postsecondary participants across all industries. However, there are still many students on waitlists to get into these programs. We don't want to leave these students behind, so let's make the improvements needed to get more workers into these programs and bolster Maine's workforce.



As you consider how to move forward on this collection of CTE related bills I would like to offer information that I have attached to my testimony to help in your decision making. ABC both in Maine and nationally are doing our part to make sure that CTE works for everyone. We would love to be a resource to you as you continue your deliberations.

I would like to close by thanking Speaker Fecteau, Sen. Daughtry, Rep. O'Neil, Rep. Fecteau, and Rep. Stearns for submitting legislation to further the trades in Maine. ABC thanks your continued efforts on this crucial subject matter.

Thank you for your time. ABC will be attending the work sessions for these bills and we are more than willing to be a resource for your deliberations. I'll be happy to take any questions that you may have.