



**Testimony of Garrett Mason  
in Support of LD 612**

**"An Act To Recognize Occupational Licenses and Certifications from Other States To Attract  
New Residents and Businesses to Maine"**

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business my name is Garrett Mason and I serve as the contract lobbyist for Associated Builders and Contractors of Maine. ABC is a national association with 69 chapters representing more than 21,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms. Here in Maine, ABC represents over 170 businesses across the state – many are located in districts that you all represent. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

On behalf of our members and our Government Affairs committee I am here today in support of LD 612, "An Act To Recognize Occupational Licenses and Certifications from Other States To Attract New Residents and Businesses to Maine." This bill creates a framework for the various boards of licensure and other government entities to recognize licenses or certifications from out of state and in some cases out of the country.

It is no secret that our industry had a hard time finding qualified candidates to fill certain positions. This bill could provide a great opportunity for the State to open doors for people from away to come work in Maine. Having a larger applicant pool with more people to choose from is something that our industry could greatly benefit from.

It is important to note that ABC Maine wants to ensure that all of the rules and regulations that go along with licensing and certifications coincide with what we have already. Safety is important to ABC members and we want to make sure that each of the licenses and certifications match Maine's standards. We would not want to sacrifice quality for quantity.

When it comes to licensing, equivalent reciprocity is a good thing. We believe this bill will give companies the flexibility to grow, recruit a stronger workforce, and bring more skilled workers to live and work in Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.