



MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

Letter in Opposition to LD 1691
An Act to Require Licensing for Certain Mechanical Trade
Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and
Business
May 13, 2021 9:30am

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business.

My name is Christopher Jordan. I am a resident of South Portland and along with the undersigned am here today to testify against LD 1691.

I am the President of Johnson & Jordan, Inc., a 100% Employee Owned Company. Since 1991, our firm has been frequently selected at the schematic level for many of the state's highest profile projects. Most of our staff has been involved in commercial mechanical construction since the early 80s. Johnson & Jordan, Inc. has gained a reputation as one of the leading mechanical contractors, in Maine & New Hampshire, specializing in commercial, hospital, institutional, & educational projects. At the heart of Johnson & Jordan, Inc. are the 298 team members who remain loyal, committed, & concerned with each other & the projects they are associated with. The team members consist of master plumbers, pipe fitters and welders, master burner techs, and licensed gas installers. Our reputation is built on understanding our customers, solving their facility needs, & exceeding their expectations.

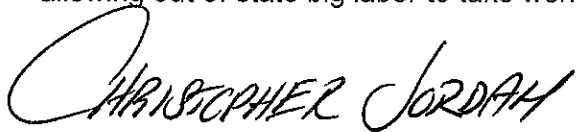
I have personally been involved in the mechanical trades since the mid 70s and hold Master Plumber licenses in both Maine and New Hampshire. I have been a resident of Maine my entire life.

The current LD 1691 proposal is a huge change in that way we do business. The proposal would create a large burdon on our already and ongoing blue collar trades challenges with recruiting qualified individuals. This proposal would appear to market toward out of state labor. As the act is written the Board of 11 must have "a minimum of five years of being a licensed journeyman or master contractor". There are currently no licensed contractor's in the State of Maine. Does this indicate that Board members would be from out of state? We support the growth of our team members with ongoing training including an accredited apprenticeship program with our plumbing program. The proposal would do nothing in support of the mechanical trades nor would it support any benefit to the residents of the State of Maine.

- Increased burdon for the mechanical trades
- High costs of implementing and maintaining an apprenticeship program
- Additional cost to the tradesman to get trained and licensed will reduce the amount of people wanting to enter the trades

- State will need another Board to manage these new licenses and staff it
 - Besides license fees how is this funded?
 - State or Federal money?
 - Where are the additional new inspectors coming from and how are they funded?
 - What about rural parts of the State who struggle to afford inspectors already?
 - What role will the State Fire Marshall's play in regards to sprinkler design?
- Reciprocity- Other states do not offer the same to Mainers when working in other states.
 - Also states "reciprocal licenses may not be denied on the basis of current residency"
- Why is a bill like this a priority at this time?
- Why has this bill been expedited?

We need to strengthen our own State's construction economy with our citizens before allowing out of state big labor to take work from an already limited construction market.



Christopher Jordan
President