



May 12, 2021

**Testimony of Michael Lowe 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 9:30 AM Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business. My name is Michael Lowe. I am a resident of Woodstock, Maine and I am here today to testify against LD 1691.

Our company is a Mechanical, HVAC, Plumbing, and Refrigeration based organization.

I am a licensed Tradesman in multiple disciplines, and a previous board member, and Chairperson of a Maine State adjudicatory / regulatory board.

As the Chairperson of this board. I lobbied for continuing education requirements for the trade it governed. The additional burden to business and the Office of Professional Licensing and Regulation as seen by the board commissioner stymied my efforts. The Governors administration at the time would not renew my appointment to this board as it was perceived I was attempting to inflict additional burden onto businesses in Maine.

- My past history and documented rejection to the board for this cause indicates to me. The Office is not able to administer even the smallest of additional burden.
- LD1691 would be a huge burden to the office requiring additional expensive personal and infrastructure.
- No indication in LD 1691 regarding funding for this Legislative act.
- Huge educative and administration cost inflicted upon Mechanical Trades existing business.
- LD 1691 deters new people from entering, and existing employees from staying in an already anemic work force.

I thank the Committee for taking the time to review my position on this controversial Legislative Act.

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