

Good Morning Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and Members of the IDEA Committee, My name is Grant Provost and I am the Business Agent for Ironworkers Local 7. I am here today in support of LD 1691 An Act to Require Licensing for Certain Mechanical Trades. Licensing Mechanical Trades is an important step to improving pay and conditions for those in the Mechanical Trades. When States say yes to licensing trades men and women it creates an atmosphere where those holding the licenses become a commodity. When a license is required individuals, who have put forth great effort and years of schooling are rewarded by becoming an asset to any company or contractor because they hold a license. This allows those holding licenses to right their own ticket when times are busy and to rise above the competition when times are lean. Licensing drives up wages too, when contractors are not allowed to put unskilled workers on a mechanical trades work there is no race to the bottom for wages. Workers with licenses hold the power in their hands and have a better chance to weather being threatened with the loss of a job because contractors would need them. Thus creating a work environment where the workers are treated fairly and paid well.

All licensed trades in other states pay for their licensing and it creates funding for the licensing board, keeping of records and the licensing. For sure we will see a neither for nor against or a flat out against worrying on costs. I would like to echo my brother Operator's words when he said "I sit on a lot of boards for the State and I can't remember ever getting paid to be on a single one". Stressing on board costs is like stepping over a dollar to save a dime. To date I have not heard of any State complaining that there is not enough money coming in from their licensing to fund their boards or programs. I do hear from those in Licensed Trades that it is a great way to ensure that jobs are done by qualified tradespeople safely and efficiently the first time. I do hear that there was a great pay bump after receiving a license equating to one of the best decisions in any individual's career. With the cost of everything that has to do with construction going up at an exponential rate, everything except wages, this bill would put a feather in the cap of those trades with licenses and help Mainer's earn a living wage.

Licensing for Mechanical Trades is a great way to ensure jobs are done safe and correctly, an excellent way to insure Mainer's are treated fairly and paid a living wage. I urge the committee to vote ought to pass on LD 1691

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Brunswick

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