



Testimony of Donald Rossignol 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 **Donald Rossignol**. I am a resident of **Litchfield, ME** and I am here today to testify against LD 1691.

Aero Heating & Ventilating Incorporated is a 100% Employee Owned (ESOP) Sheetmetal Ductwork company founded in 1990 by Maine resident Clair Crandall: Current President and ESOP Trustee.

I have been in the sheet metal trade for 40+ years. I got into the trade because Lewiston High School had vocational classes. I chose the sheet metal trade and was hired right out of high school. 90% of my fellow classmates got into the trade and have been very successful since. That being said, now I am a Project Manager in one of the state's largest companies – Aero Heating & Ventilating in Westbrook.

We pay our employees top benefits including medical, long term and short term disability and paid vacation. At this time we are and have been trying to hire new employees. For the past few years at least, we have been struggling to attract younger employees.

Like all other trades, no young people want to get into the trades. Adding to the burden by telling them they have to go for training to be licensed will only make it harder to hire and would put most local sheet metal shops out of business (NOT the way life should be in Maine).

Now, we have out of state proponents pushing our state legislators to adopt their plan, which would add so much expense to all projects in Maine that businesses would have to absorb the higher cost. It would also force them to rethink if they should grow their business in the State of Maine. I ask all legislators to vote *against* this act and *for* Maine – let's keep it the way life should be.

Thank you for your time today. If you have any questions, I can be reached at drossignol@aerohv.com or at 207-671-8997.