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**Scott L. Smith in Opposition to LD 1691**

*An Act to Require Licensing for Certain Mechanical Trades*

*Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business*

January 12, 2022

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. My name is Scott Smith. I am a resident of Lincoln, Maine, and a lifelong resident of Maine. I am also the founder, along with my brother, Alan Smith of Fastco Corporation. We are a Mechanical Contractor that has been in business in Maine since 1987 (33 years), supporting other Maine Business's. Our work requires us to perform and/or oversee all of the Mechanical Trades that are being targeted in LD 1691.

I was just recently made aware of LD 1691 An Act to Require Licensing for Certain Mechanical Trades, and that it was to be put before you tomorrow.

- This Bill appears to have been written by Out of State Contractors that utilize “Organized Labor”, looking to become the sole source contractors for the State of Maine. If passed many Maine Contractors will be forced out of business or leave the State. Maine Employees will lose their jobs.
- It is modeled very similar to the rules of Massachusetts. Massachusetts and Rhode Island make it almost impossible for a Maine Contractor to work in their States, but they are already welcome to work in Maine. If this passes, the only Contractors not welcome in Maine will be Maine Contractors.
- This Bill is going after a problem that does not exist. We currently work to National Codes and Standards, Engineered Drawings and Specifications, Installation Guidelines, Contract obligations, In House and Third Party Inspections. We have extensive in house Quality Control, Safety, and Training Programs.
- We are already experiencing a shortage of people willing to enter the trades. The Technical Colleges converted to Community Colleges, dropping some of the trade school offerings, and many younger people are not interested in the trades. We can offer in house training and job shadowing that allows people to learn at their own pace. To force a Displaced Millworker to go back to school for a year, then do a 3 year Apprenticeship program, will likely force them out of the Trades.
- A young person looking to start his own business will have to look at working at least 10 years before being allowed to get a Master Mechanical Contractor License. I don't see any new business starting in Maine.
- A new Board or Regulatory Agency will be created within the State. The State of Maine taxpayers should not have to pay for another Agency. It will be very expensive.

With all due respect, please vote “Ought Not to pass on LD 1691”.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for giving me the opportunity to express my concerns today.

I can be reached anytime if you have any questions for me.

Scott L. Smith

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