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**Testimony of Paul Tardif 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 Paul Tardif. I am a resident of Auburn, Maine and I am providing this statement in testimony against LD 1691.

Eastern Fire is one of the largest and oldest fire sprinkler companies in northern New England, established in 1944.

I have been involved in fire protection work in 18 states during the last 48 years in construction.

The requirement to license every level of installer is unnecessary with current oversight and will put added costs onto contractors and/or employees. Costs that will ultimately be passed on to residents and owners of property, increasing the cost of construction and system maintenance while not improving the level of life safety that is currently regulated.

In the 1980's the Maine fire sprinkler industry along with the fire marshal's office created the fire sprinkler law in order to regulate the fire sprinkler industry and ensure that the highest quality and integrity are included in all sprinkler designs, installations, and testing.

Like all reputable business owners throughout the State of Maine, we take pride in the quality of work we provide to customers and the quality of training we provide to our employees. Our license as a contractor ensures that we follow regulation put forth both nationally and by the state and local authorities having jurisdiction. Adding licensure to apprentices, journeymen, and "master" sprinkler fitters will not improve the quality set forth, it will lead to a diminished labor pool and increased overhead business costs.

Thank you for considering my comments and please contact me with any questions.

I can be reached in my office at 207-784-1507 and on my cell at 207-852-6333.

Sincerely,

**Paul A. Tardif**

Paul Tardif