

TO: Senator Curry, Representative Roberts
Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
FROM: Richard Reardon, PE, Department Chair of Electrical Programs at Eastern Maine Community College
RE: Testimony in Support of LD 1713
DATE: May 12, 2023

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, I am Richard Reardon, the Department Chair of Electrical Programs at Eastern Maine Community College, and I am providing testimony in support of LD 1713.

As a lifelong resident of the greater Bangor area, a former hiring manager of EMCC graduates, a licensed Master Electrician, a licensed Professional Engineer, and an educator with over 50 years of electrical experience I feel uniquely qualified to provide testimony related to LD 1713. Having taught at EMCC for the last 23 years I can confidently say that our graduates are well prepared to enter the workforce and install electrical systems in a safe and workmanship-like manor adhering to all codes and standards.

Educating electricians to serve the greater Bangor area has been a central part of the mission of Eastern Maine Community College since its inception in the mid 1960's. Graduates of EMCC's electrical programs are highly sought by employers across the state because these graduates are known to have received a quality education. The famous W. Edwards Deming defined "quality" as "conformance to requirements".

For Eastern Maine Community College electrical programs, the electrical education "requirements" are set by the State of Maine Electricians Examining Board and the respective program Advisory Committees. The "conformance" relates to the matter at hand. An "accredited" institution is one that has provided documentation to an accrediting agency that clearly shows programs are teaching and assessing the objectives specified in their program documentation. Eastern Maine Community College is a NECHE accredited institution.

It was determined through our great collaborative work with OPOR that the best way to ensure that EMCC and the MCCS can continue to provide well trained electricians for the future needs of the State of Maine as we have for the last forty plus years is to fix the language so that there is no room for confusion. That is what the proposed legislation does: it makes it clear that "accredited" modifies community college.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 1713.

Sincerely,



Richard K Reardon, P.E.
Department Chair of Electrical Programs
Eastern Maine Community College