



# International Brotherhood Electrical Workers

## Local #1837 Utility / Broadcasting

NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICE  
84 Bay ST. 1st Floor  
Manchester NH 03104  
(603) 743-1652  
nhlocal@ibew1837.org

*Tony Sapienza, Business Manager*  
Michelle Crocker, President  
Renee Gilman, Assistant Business Manager  
Kitty Kilroy, Business Representative  
Kaitlyn Hegarty, Business Representative

MAINE OFFICE  
PO Box 457  
Manchester, ME 04351  
(207) 623-1030  
Fax (207) 621-8384  
union@ibew1837.org

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### **Testimony of Kaitlyn Hegarty, Business Representative, IBEW Local 1837, In Opposition to L.D. 187, “An Act to Prohibit Labor Organizations from Imposing Mandatory Service Fees on Nonmembers”**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and distinguished members of the Labor Committee,

My name is Kaitlyn Hegarty. I am currently a Business Representative for IBEW Local 1837, which represents hundreds of Maine workers—including employees at Central Maine Power, Versant Power, Wyman Station, WGME-TV, The Maine Democratic Party, and more. I am a proud dues-paying union member testifying in strong opposition to L.D. 187.

I have been a member of the IBEW for more than 10 years, and I have seen firsthand how our unions’ work improves conditions for all employees under a collective bargaining agreement, whether or not they are dues-paying members. I started my career in broadcasting, which for many can mean working odd shifts—including countless overnights—facing low pay in expensive cities and covering stressful situations. In that environment, I was one of the many who benefited tremendously from the collective power of my union. My contract protected me from having my schedule changed without proper notice—allowing me to plan my life—enforced minimum staffing requirements to avoid burnout and unexpected layoffs in what can be a volatile industry and secured guaranteed step-raises and percentage raises each year, something that is often not guaranteed at many television stations across the country.

Today, in my role as a staff member for IBEW Local 1837, I advocate for these same protections for others. My work involves negotiating contracts, handling grievances, and ensuring fair working conditions for everyone covered by our collective bargaining agreements—both union members and nonmembers.

Employees who benefit from union representation but choose not to join pay a “fair share” fee to cover collective bargaining, contract enforcement, and grievance handling. Because higher wages, better benefits, and safer workplaces apply to everyone—members and nonmembers alike—removing these fees would force dues-paying members to shoulder costs alone, undermining fairness and weakening union resources. That reduction in resources threatens workplace safety, wage standards, and the overall economic health of our communities. After more than a decade witnessing how fair share fees protect all workers, I urge you to vote “Ought Not to Pass” on L.D. 187 and continue Maine’s proud tradition of supporting its working people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kaitlyn Hegarty  
Business Representative, IBEW Local 1837