

Right To Work Testimony

Good morning. My name is Justin Shaw, I'm a third-generation pipe fitter and Union member, for 28 years. I served a 5-year apprenticeship with Local 716, pipefitters, plumbers, steamfitters, sprinkler fitters, and welders. Collecting dues paid for my education and a better life for my family.

The training and education I received through the apprenticeship program was extensive. How to weld many different types of metals, reading blueprints, bending tubing, plumbing, sprinkler fitting, laying out offsets, use of many tools of the trade, aerial lifts, the list goes on. This was taught by journeyman in the local, in a building funded by the local, with tools and materials provided by Union contractors and the local. Expecting that level of pride, commitment, and education without collecting dues is absurd.

I worked in construction for 11 years. From Madawaska to Portland, from Rumford to Bar Harbor and many points between. I now work at the Sappi Somerset facility in Skowhegan. I've worked here for

almost 17 years. I've been a Shop Steward, Maintenance VP, Executive VP, and now the President of USW Local 9 with 480 members.

Right to work legislation would have a negative impact on both the Union member and the private entity employing those individuals.

Many of the managers we work with daily enjoy operating under a collective bargaining agreement. CBA's detail what we can and cannot do within our facility. Each Union has their own CBA but they're all similar language wise.

If we have a dispute over the CBA, then we have the grievance process which is fair and equal...usually.

Having a Union in place has heightened safety awareness wages and benefits. In the private sector competition is good and Union pipefitters making good wages with good benefits has a trickle down to the non-union companies, schools teaching the

trades, and us spending that hard earned money in
our State.

Are Unions perfect and get it right every time? No.
But neither is our government. We continue to work
together, and we have a similar goal, the goal to
make our constituents' lives better. It is short sighted
to believe Union busting will be good for Maine.

Thank you.