



Anne M. Carney
Senator, District 29

THE MAINE SENATE

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Good morning Senator Rafferty, Representative Sylvester, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. My name is Anne Carney, representing Senate District 29, South Portland, Cape Elizabeth and part of Scarborough. I am pleased to provide testimony in support of LD 469, An Act to Ensure Safety Across Maine's Construction Industry. I sincerely wish I could appear in person before the committee, and bring the customary treat to my former committee members and new legislators who have joined the committee.

LD 469 is a critical step toward improving safety for construction workers and other craft workers on public works projects. The legislation provides easy, straight-forward steps for implementing and enforcing this important safety policy.

LD 469 ensures that all craft workers on public works contracts with the State of \$50,000 or more have taken the 10 hour safety training known as "OSHA 10." This 10 hour course gives workers basic training on recognizing, avoiding, and preventing safety hazards in the workplace, and information about workers' rights. The widely-available OSHA-10 training program uses a curriculum approved by the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The legislation will make sure everyone on a public jobsite understands how to keep themselves and their co-workers safe.

Implementation is straight-forward. A contractor or subcontractor within the scope of the legislation will give the Department of Labor a signed statement of compliance that each craft worker has completed OSHA-10 training with its regular certified payroll submission. The contractor or subcontractor will also post at each job site an affidavit establishing that the requirements of legislation have been met.

The enforcement mechanism is clear and effective. The Commissioner of Labor may issue a cease operations order if a contractor or subcontractor has not complied with the statute. The contractor or subcontractor is entitled to three business days advance notice before a cease operations order goes into effect, and ten days to request an expedited hearing, which must take place within seven business days of the request. The Commissioner must issue a decision within five days of the hearing. The bill mandates that the cease operations order be stayed if the contractor or subcontractor can show they have met the OSHA-10 training requirements.

LD 469 will make public construction project sites safer and reduce workplace injuries, something we can all support. I urge the committee to recommend passage of LD 469.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.