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President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
130th Legislature

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Testimony in Support of LD 469
An Act To Ensure Safety across Maine's Construction Industry

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing

Senator Rafferty, Representative Sylvester, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing,

My name is Troy Jackson and I represent the people of northern Aroostook County in Senate District 1. I am here today to extend my wholehearted support to LD 469, "An Act To Ensure Safety across Maine's Construction Industry."

Two of the most important roles we have as lawmakers is to ensure public safety and the responsible use of our tax dollars. This bill does both by requiring OSHA-10 for all craftsmen hired in public work projects costing \$50,000 or more.

If proactive steps are taken to ensure workplace safety, most workplace accidents and injuries are preventable. That is why requiring a ten hour training program that covers hazard prevention and job safety practices is essential and outweighs the compliance requirements provided in the bill. Project contractors or subcontractors are simply required to submit a signed statement of compliance to the Maine Department of Labor for each craft worker during their payroll submission process and to later post an affidavit of this compliance at the worksite. Since OSHA-10 training certification is good for 5 years, this information can be easily recorded.

When it comes to this minimum training, unfortunately, Maine is an outlier when compared to other New England states. New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, as well as other northeastern states, all require OSHA training for public work projects.¹ That is because it is a simple solution to a commonplace problem. Such an assurance gives workers a strong foundation on which to build their safety knowledge. It also establishes employer credibility and contributes to a strong safety culture.

Thank you for your time and please consider joining me in supporting all Mainers by voting ought to pass on LD 469 "An Act To Ensure Safety Across Maine's Construction Industry."

¹ http://osha10hrtraining.com/osha_training_required_state_map.html