

March 1, 2020

Committee on Labor and Housing

Clerk: Alyssa Thompson

Cross Bldg. 202

100 State House Station

RE: LD 469, HP035

Dear, Chair Senator Joseph Rafferty, Chair Representative Mike Sylvester and Committee Members.

Hello, my name is Don Nazaroff and I live in Greene, ME. I have lived and worked in the Construction Industry all my life right here in Maine. I am currently the representative for Sheet Metal Workers Local 17 Maine of which I have been with for over 34 years.

Thank you for hearing my Testimony concerning Bill LD 469.

I am in strong support this Bill; "An Act to Ensure Safety across Maine's Construction Industry".

I think it's fair to say that the Construction Industry is a very dangerous Industry to be in and around. Each year men and woman die being in the Construction Industry and/or get injured to the point of lost time and wages. Maine has had 88 fatalities in the Construction Industry alone from 2015 to 2019 according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. With that said, I believe one fatality in the Construction Industry is one too many.

I am in strong support of this Bill which I believe will help reduce or eliminate lost time work and any fatalities on the State of Maine's construction projects. I know that with proper safety Training for Apprentices and Journeyman we can achieve a safe environment on Construction sites for everyone working or visiting there. OSHA 10 Hour Classes help identify any risks and or hazards on the job and how to deal with them thus creating a safety wise competent construction worker.

As for my Organization we require OSHA 10 Training to everyone as part of our Code of Excellence. It's a good feeling knowing that when you are working on a construction site that the people you are working around have safety knowledge to protect everyone from the inherent hazards we face as construction workers on the jobsite.

I also believe as for unscrupulous contractors' using unsafe practices looking to cut corners to make a quick buck, that this Bill will cut down on this problem. Much too often the contractors

who take the time to train their workers in safety lose jobs because of those types of contractors who don't. The contractor who does not train their employees regarding Safety and does not have them work safe are bidding jobs lower for extra profit over safety. You can bet if they don't care about safety for their employees they most certainly don't care about quality on Maine's projects either. With this type of example it should make the Maine taxpayer cringe...

I strongly encourage that you pass this Bill for the safety and wellbeing of all Construction workers on Maine's Public Works projects. I honestly believe in this Bill and that it is way over due to be enacted into law. So, in closing I ask that you please vote yes for what I strongly believe is right here for Maines Construction Industry.

Respectfully,

Don Nazaroff

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