

Mike Sylvester
Portland

Testimony in favor of LD 469 An Act To Ensure Safety Across Maine's Construction Industry

Senator Rafferty and my esteemed colleagues of the Labor and Housing Committee, I am very happy to introduce LD 499, An Act To Ensure Safety across Maine's Construction Industry. This bill is exceptionally simple. It is about ensuring that large state projects are built by workers who are well trained in the highest levels of safety.

As we have all heard over the last couple of weeks, there are both Federal Level and State Levels of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or OSHA. Maine has an agreement with Federal OSHA to provide and monitor training for numerous occupations, including, safety training in the construction industry.

The training comes in various levels denoted by the number of hours that the training lasts. The 10-hour safety course covers general safety and health hazards for entry-level workers. The 30-hour safety course provides a greater variety of safety subjects and in-depth, industry-specific training and is intended for supervisors and workers with safety and health responsibility. These courses are available on-line by vendors who have been authorized by OSHA.

LD 499 requires a contractor or subcontractor with a public works contract with the State of \$50,000 or more to certify all craft workers who will be on the construction site have taken a safety training program that uses a curriculum approved by the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and that is at least 10 hours in duration. A contractor or subcontractor is required to provide proof of compliance by submitting a statement of compliance as part of its regular certified payroll submission. The contractor or subcontractor is required to display at the job site an affidavit showing compliance. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee is authorized to issue a cease operations order if a contractor or subcontractor is not in compliance.

In short, when Maine puts its money on the table, the contractors and subcontractors we hire should ensure safety on the job. By requiring that all the craft workers on a state funded worksite over 50,000 have an OSHA 10 training, we can reduce injury and improve quality. With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions.

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