

Carrie Jadud
Maine People's Alliance

Good morning, Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is Carrie Jadud, I'm an organizer for the Maine People's Alliance, and today I have the privilege of speaking on behalf of MPA's 32,000 members. Like most MPA staff, I am also a member of Maine Service Employees Association, SEIU Local 1989. I testify in support of LD 1231.

Maine People's Alliance is dedicated to providing Maine people with the tools, knowledge, skills and opportunity to become involved in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. To this end, we see that LD 1231 would help Mainers develop the skills and tools to ensure they are agents of their own survival. I work with community members every day who are excited to contribute when given a chance. Many of our members would benefit from the new training and job opportunities this bill would create.

MPA works to build a multi-racial social justice movement that centers the experiences and voices of Mainers of color, and involves people of all races working together to dismantle structural racism and its harmful impacts. We believe that working Mainers of all races, cultures, and genders want and deserve both a good living and a liveable planet. This bill presents an opportunity to develop and celebrate a diverse, skilled workforce.

Combating climate change benefits all Mainers. But we know that the adverse effects of a warming planet are not felt equitably among all people. The very forces that have created our climate crisis have worked for generations to marginalize indigenous peoples and communities of color. Now we have an opportunity to mitigate climate change while also creating avenues for Mainers in these communities to thrive.

I'm also speaking to you today as a mom who often wonders, late at night, whether it was kind to bring my children into a world that seems to burn hotter every year. But I also know that my white, middle-class children stand a better chance than some of their classmates at winning a race to the top of the sinking ship. I don't much like that image. Neither should you. Let's do better, for all our children.