

REED & REED



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April 9, 2021

Senator Joseph Rafferty
Representative Mike Sylvester
Members of the Labor and Housing Committee

RE: LD1231

My name is Jackson Parker. I am Chairman & CEO of Reed & Reed, Inc., a 93-year young construction company based in Woolwich, Maine. We are a 100% Employee-Owned Company.

I speak in opposition to LD 1231

There are 407 wind turbines located across 19 projects in Maine. The proud and skilled men and women of Reed & Reed built 378 of them. The other 29 were built by Cianbro.

Every one of these 19 wind projects in Maine, with a total value of over \$2.3 billion, were built by Maine companies.

Our subcontractors on these projects have included Sargent Corp., Maine Drilling & Blasting, Underwood Electric, and many, many other Maine companies.

The first of these projects was Mars Hill in 2006. Not a single one of our employees had any wind power experience. But we trained them. Yes, we trained them to build wind projects.

As our workforce acquired these skills, we were able to parlay this experience into building wind projects in NH, VT, MA and now West Virginia.

Through the outstanding skills, work ethic and dedication of our workforce, we earned the chance to build project after project – 15 in all in Maine. On these projects our employees worked over 1.1 million hours safely and productively.

In 2016 Reed & Reed became 100% Employee-Owned. These same skilled employees are now owners of the premier wind power services company in New England. They achieved this high status by capitalizing on the training provided by Reed & Reed combined with their work ethic and ability.

There was no state mandated apprenticeship program or PLA involved in any of their achievements. Just an old-line company and its dedicated employees working together to become the best. I am extremely proud of what we have achieved.

It is in our interest as an employer to have trained and skilled workers and that is why we are an employer-sponsor under the AGC Maine Apprenticeship program. This program is designed to train workers in skills that fit our needs, not an over-broad government-dictated program that does not.

Now comes LD1231 which seeks to use the machinery of government to displace our highly skilled and trained employee-owners from an industry they helped create and impose bureaucratic requirements where none are needed.

LD1231 would impose union-only work rules and policies and force our employee-owners to join unions under Project Labor Agreements or be penalized by the PUC by up to 30% when competing for energy contracts.

Our company routinely participates in contracts where 'prevailing wages' are required but these projects are 100% funded by state and federal tax dollars. LD1231 would impose these same contract requirements on projects where the state-provided financial "Assist" may be only a tiny fraction of the project cost, unless we submit to a PLA.

I hope someone can explain to the hundreds of employee-owners at Reed & Reed, Sargent Corporation, Maine Drilling & Blasting, Cianbro and dozens of other Maine companies why they must now join unions, pay union dues, and shift value away from the companies they now own or be penalized by the provisions of LD1231.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jackson A. Parker
Chairman & CEO
Reed & Reed, Inc.