

Ania Wright
Bar Harbor

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is Ania Wright and I'm the youth representative of the Maine Climate Council. I testify in support of LD 1231.

As a Climate Council member, and as a young person who wants good job opportunities for my peers in Maine, I strongly support LD 1231. LD 1231 builds off of recommendations in The Maine Won't Wait – Four Year Plan for Climate Action:
https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/MaineWontWait_December2020.pdf

On Page 72 of the plan, it states:

The Strengthen Maine's Clean Energy Economy Plan highlights the importance of encouraging efforts to target the creation of these high-quality jobs through strategies that pair job quality standards with clean-energy investments. Some of these may include prevailing wages, project labor agreements, safety and health protections, community benefit agreements, registered apprenticeship utilization, and local-hire provisions.

We know we face serious threats from climate change. We also face crises of economic inequality and racial inequity. Our response to climate change needs to create high quality jobs and advance equity, and offer opportunities for a just transition to a renewable future. We have opportunities to create thousands of good quality new jobs, but that won't just happen by itself.

LD 1231 will not only advance the goals of the Maine Climate Council, but it will also provide more opportunities for young people in our State as they enter the field to get good paying jobs that keep them in Maine. LD 1231 takes important steps to ensure that jobs in the clean energy economy pay decent wages with benefits, that we are training a highly skilled workforce and provide strong training opportunities through apprenticeship, that we are advancing equity by encouraging hiring of indigenous people, people of color, women and veterans, and that we are prioritizing the safety of workers on these projects.

Thank you for your time and consideration.