

**TESTIMONY OF TIMOTHY OUELLETTE
IN OPPOSITION TO LD 1633**

**An Act To Require Responsible Contracting Practices for Public
Construction Projects**

Committee On Labor and Housing

Wednesday May 5, 2021

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and distinguished members of the Committee on Labor and Housing. My name is Tim Ouellette, I live in Scarborough, and I am one of the owners of CPM Constructors, a heavy construction company based in Freeport. I also previously served as Board President for AGC Maine, an association representing nearly 200 construction firms and thousands of construction workers in the state.

I am submitting my testimony in opposition to LD 1633, An Act To Require Responsible Contracting Practices for Public Construction Projects.

This proposed legislation attempts to fix a problem that does not exist. State agencies already have a prequalification process for companies to bid on public work. Construction projects of all types and sizes are completed safely and successfully by Maine firms every day, including major projects over \$10 million. We support our people with training, benefits and advancement throughout their careers.

Additionally, the bill's requirements to sign Project Labor Agreements and maintain apprenticeship programs for every craft hurt "open shop" companies, which make up the vast majority of businesses and employees in Maine's construction industry. This bill would force all our businesses decide whether to change the relationship we have with our employees. Out of state companies with union affiliations would have an advantage against Maine open shop companies, which would not be allowed to bid on some projects.

CPM Constructors has completed numerous projects over \$10 million for the Maine Department of Transportation and Maine Turnpike Authority without a Project Labor Agreement. In effect, this bill would tell Maine companies that the state does not want them to do business here any more.

Maine contractors already pay their employees excellent wages, provide training and advancement, and promote safety and safety certifications. This proposed bill does not reflect the current state of construction in Maine. I encourage you to vote against LD 1633. Thank you for your time.