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TO: Senator Hickman, Chair  
Representative Sylvester, Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing  
FROM: Becky Smith, Director of Government and Community Relations  
RE: L.D. 1633, An Act To Require Responsible Contracting Practices for Public  
Construction Projects  
DATE: May 5, 2021

This letter addresses L.D. 1633, *An Act To Require Responsible Contracting Practices for Public Construction Projects*.

MCCS appreciates the interests and concerns underlying the intention of this bill. As a leader of workforce development throughout the state, we understand the importance of economic development and the benefits of a well-trained workforce. Indeed, our long-term goal at MCCS is to use educational opportunity to steadily and continually provide more Maine residents with higher-skilled and therefore higher-paying jobs throughout our state.

We share the concerns on this bill as expressed by the Administration. Despite good intentions, requirements such as those in this bill rarely fit the realities of the marketplace.

We are also concerned about the impact of this bill on our budget. It is well studied and understood that smaller markets create higher prices, and right now MCCS cannot afford these potential cost increases. Our resources are focused on addressing the skills gap that has become more profound as we enter the post-pandemic era. Any legislation that causes a structural increase in costs, comes at the expense of developing the workforce Maine needs to succeed in the post-pandemic economy.

For the reasons set forth above, MCCS therefore respectfully requests that this Committee report this bill Ought Not to Pass.

Thank you for the courtesy of your consideration.