

Phil Leary
painters union

Senator Hickman ,Representative Sylvester and the members of the joint standing committee on labor and housing. My name is Phil Leary and I am a member of DC35 Painters and Allied Trades.

This bill is much needed Maine needs affordable housing Maine is short 20,000 housing units right now. Maine has a shortage of trades people to build the housing that we need so much. Maine needs to scale up what we need for affordable energy efficient housing.

The housing that we build will be done with PLA (project labor agreements) in place to raise working standards and strengthen and expand our apprenticeship programs. This would in turn raise wages and benefits of these highly skilled workers. It works and pays off when you have skilled trained workers that the job gets done in a faster time and under budget with little to no safety issues because of the extensive training that we receive.

This bill would result in a \$100 million of energy efficient affordable housing in the state of Maine. Maine and states alike are struggling to build up the affordable housing market this has been an ongoing issue for a long time we have a chance to do something about it and we should capitalize on it.

There are to many folks out there who struggle to pay there bills. Building affordable housing relieves the burden of paying an astronomical rent to live and stimulates the economy. Not to mention energy efficient housing will make things better as we struggle with a growing climate control issue.

Maine needs to invest in workforce development to strengthen our registered apprenticeship programs to keep our workplaces safe, to help workers collectively bargain for fair wages and benefits. Shortages of workers drive up the cost of labor as we see in this market right now were folks are paying \$20K to \$30K or more to secure a purchase on a home. I am in favor of LD1656 to build energy efficient affordable housing for the state of Maine.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony.