

Labor and Housing Committee

Chair: Senator Daughtry and Representative Sylvester

Senator Guerin	Representative Cuddy	Representative Morris
Senator Hickman	Representative Drinkwater	Representative Peabworth
Representative Bradstreet	Representative Gere	Representative Roeder
	Representative Warren	

Legislative Document 1969

An Act Concerning Equity in Renewable Energy Projects and Workforce Development

Sponsor: Representative Cuddy Representative Speaker Fecteau

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1969.

This bill provides much needed structure for all to establish sustained growth as well as create careers for Maine people in the renewable energy market.

The renewable energy industry is offering an opportunity for the state of Maine to establish itself as an industry leader in solar and wind industry.

As it stands now there are many solar farms popping up throughout the state being constructed by national developers who create local franchises. The new franchise owner is given a project outline and the material is shipped to the site, they recruit help through Facebook or craigslist, pay the workers as independent contractors who come and go skirting the tax laws as independent contractors, the fact of the matter is they are misclassified employees. These misclassified employees generally do not realize the potential opportunity in front them to establish a career and enjoy a good living here in Maine.

LD 1969 lays out a training program, decent wage and benefits with growth opportunities for many who live in rural areas with limited options. It also provides a structure to the renewable energy industry which will enable these renewable energy farms to succeed with trained people who now have the opportunity to establish a career the state, rather than graduate and move out for better career opportunities.

By providing a strong workforce we will attract better developers/companies who can take on complex projects without fearing a lack of qualified workers to perform the tasks it takes to complete these jobs

I believe by implementing the outline LD1969 provides the people of Maine will benefit through tax revenue a clean source of energy as well as career opportunities for a new workforce to develop sustained growth in the state. I urge you to support LD 1969, Thank you for your time

Sincerely,
John Leavitt
Business Manager
Carpenters Local 349/352