

Good Morning Senator Daughtry, Representative Sylvester and esteemed members of the Labor and Housing Committee. My name is Grant Provost I am the Business Agent for Ironworkers Local 7 in the State of Maine. I serve on two workforce boards, the Maine State Work Force Board and the Western and Central Maine Workforce Board. I am also a member of the AFL-CIO Executive Board. I rise in full support of LD 1969, An Act Concerning Equity in Renewable Energy Projects and Workforce Development. This piece of legislation will help usher in a new economy that is not only equitable for our citizens but will mandate that the transition from fossil fuels will be a just one. The use of prevailing wage will lift thousands of workers in construction out of poverty, the utilization of Pre Apprenticeship Programs will lead these workers to good paying careers in the construction trades they choose. LD 1969 will enable the family members of all tradespeople union or non-union to put food on the table, hold jobs that turn into careers and earn enough to have a savings for the future. This is not

the current atmosphere in Maine, where General Contractors squeeze every last bit of profit out of their subcontractors internally, driving wages down. I see this first hand when organizing new members into Ironworkers Local 7. I meet workers who have put in over 60 hours a week and still qualify for Maine Care. Workers well into their later parts of their careers who have not a single cent for retirement and are looking at being laid off or forced out by younger new hires. After a career of supplying their employers with millions of dollars in profits they have nothing but what Social Security can hand them to live on and the realization that they will soon be on state funded aid for the rest of their life. When a project at least requires prevailing wage you create a market where companies that pay health insurance, provide retirement and pay a living wage can compete.

Currently you would have a hard time finding anyone to work on your home for under \$40 dollars an hour, how can we find it acceptable for a construction worker working on a renewable

energy project to make \$15 per hour or less. You and I will be making that number \$40 an hour later if not more when we are paying for that employees families healthcare, their food and their retirement. My son and daughter are going to be the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of my family brought up here in the State of Maine, more than anything this is about their future as well as all of our children. It's about the kind of Maine we want for them. It's about a fair economy where the switch to a carbon neutral electrical grid does not lead to the elimination of the working class. We have an opportunity like no other generation before us, we need to seize the moment and make sure that future generations can benefit from our braveness today. This is why I urge you to vote out to pass.

Grant Provost

Business Agent/Industry Analyst

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Brunswick  
LD 1969

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