



Maine People's Alliance

Good morning, Senator Daughtry, Representative Sylvester and members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is Adam Zuckerman and I am the lobbyist for the Maine People's Alliance. MPA is Maine's largest community action organization with over 32,000 members across the state. Our mission is to create a world where everyone has what they need, contributes what they can, and no one is left behind.

That is why I am proud to testify in favor of Rep. Cuddy's LD 1969, *An Act Concerning Equity in Climate Projects and Workforce Development*. LD 1969 seeks to ensure that no one is left behind by creating good quality clean energy jobs and advancing equity. It will create on-ramps into renewable energy projects for women, people of color, New Mainers, working class Mainers, and others who have long been underrepresented in the industry. It will ensure that those most impacted by climate change are able to take part in the green energy revolution to address it. Pre-apprenticeship programs will help workers earn while they learn and Maine will develop a skilled, local clean energy workforce for these projects and beyond.

The renewable energy economy in Maine is in its nascent stages. Imagine if at the beginning of the industrial revolution we had sat down and thought about the kind of industry that we wanted to build.

Most people think of oil and gas as extractive and renewable energy as regenerative. However, renewable energy can reinforce an extractive economy if it treats workers as disposable. It can be truly regenerative if it creates broad-based prosperity, training, and development.

Solar expansion has surged in the last few years. As Mainers we are blessed with abundant coastline that could make us a world leader in wind and tidal power. If we are intentional about how we build that economy, we can usher in a wave of equity and dignity that washes over our whole state. Thank you.

Adam Zuckerman
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LD 1969

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