

Maya Faulstich
Maine Youth Action
LD 373

Dear Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and honorable members of the Committee on Labor and Housing,

I am Maya Faulstich, a high school student and activist with Maine Youth Action, and a resident of Yarmouth ME. I am writing to urge you to support LD 373.

In Maine's climate action plan, Maine Won't Wait, a strong clean energy workforce is emphasized. The IJA and IRA are dedicating a total of \$75 billion to encourage and allow the expansion of the "green workforce". To have a skilled and efficient green workforce, we have to ensure that these workers have adequate labor protections and enough pay to support their families. Passing this bill would make sure that these important industries can progress without labor disputes.

Maine has also set many important goals, which this bill is critical in helping us meet. Governor Mills wants every Mainer connected to high-speed internet before this year ends. For this to be possible, broadband installers need to be supported. Some goals in the Maine Won't Wait plan include using 80% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% renewable energy by 2050. Again, this can only be possible if public transit workers, bus drivers, wind and solar workers, and other extremely important workers for our clean energy transition are supported. By adopting labor harmony, we can support our workers and prevent labor stoppages and interruptions.

Additionally, another bill that would expand labor protections, LD 1756, was passed earlier this year, and LD 373 would help provide consistency with this bill and clarify it. This bill would allow Maine to have a more efficient and safe workforce when leasing state lands for clean energy development, installing broadband internet access, or developing public transportation.

As a young person, I want to be able to find a good job in the future that can help transition our economy and society to clean energy, but I need to feel supported in my job. This bill will help support many young people entering the workforce and allow for them to be well-trained and well-paid so that we can effectively and efficiently advance our society to support a clean-energy future.

Sincerely,

Maya Faulstich
Maine Youth Action
Yarmouth, ME