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**May 5, 2021**

***Representative Mark Bryant in support of  
LD 1411, An Act To Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government***

Good afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I am Representative Mark Bryant of District 24, which includes part of Windham, and I am here today to speak in support of **LD 1411, An Act To Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act**.

Here in Maine, we have a long tradition of supporting local. We do this because we are proud of the quality of work and the quality of life we have here. Our state's work ethic is among the things I love most about Maine. And this translates into quality products.

That's why when the state puts out a bid for a contract on a public project that will serve all of our communities, using Mainer's tax dollars, it makes sense that we would choose local companies for the job. This bill helps do just that. The Maine Buy American, Build Maine Act ensures that those contracts prioritize American businesses and American workers rather than being shipped overseas. This is good for the country and good for Maine.

This bill puts money back into our communities and our local economies while growing our "Made in Maine" brand. We have a chance here to invest in our people and our businesses. After the year we've had and the losses we've all suffered as a result of the pandemic, this bill gives us an opportunity not only to recover from the downturn, but to truly move Maine forward. When taxpayer dollars are on the line, let's invest in Mainer's to get the job done.

Thank you.