

May 5, 2021

Support LD 1411 the Buy American Build Maine Act

On behalf of the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM), I urge you to support LD 1411, the Buy American Build Maine Act.

AAM is a labor-management partnership between the United Steelworkers and some of America's leading manufacturing companies. Together, we support policies that benefit both American workers and companies doing business here in the United States.

Reinvesting tax dollars into the local and national economy promotes growth, expands the tax base, and – by creating more job opportunities for middle-class Americans – reduces the burden on social safety net programs.

A [recent report](#) by The Economic Policy Institute finds that by rebalancing trade by expanding exports, and expanding public investments in infrastructure, clean energy, and energy efficiency Maine would support 26,300 net jobs in 2024. LD 1411 is an important step toward doing exactly this.

As companies continue to invest in their U.S. operations, they modernize plants to make them safe and efficient, and create jobs in the process. This legislation will ensure that as Maine regulates the way U.S. manufacturers do business, Maine will do its best to encourage U.S. production and investment. LD 1411 will ensure that compliance with U.S. environmental and labor standards is the standard for doing business with the one of the globe's biggest customers.

Maine state agencies are already accustomed to applying Buy America preferences when executing programs funded by federal grants. This longstanding practice by the federal government, and many state governments, is well-understood by contracting officers and bidders on public projects. Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, West Virginia and others all have similar domestic preferences in statute.

Without these sensible changes enacted into law, Maine will continue on a path of sending Down Easters' hard-earned tax dollars to foreign firms when American workers stand to do the work. Our manufacturers and workers are anxiously watching, hoping that you will support these commonsense and necessary fixes to existing state law. Vote in favor of the Buy American Build Maine Act, tell these manufacturers and workers you support their jobs, their businesses, and their communities. We urge your support for LD 1411.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Lombardo
Vice President of State Governmental Affairs
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