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Testimony of Sen. Chloe Maxmin supporting
LD 1411, An Act To Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, and honorable members of the State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Chloe Maxmin. I represent Senate District 13, which includes all of Lincoln County except for Dresden, plus Washington and Windsor—a total of twenty-seven towns. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1411, “An Act To Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act.”

I am proud to be cosponsoring this bill, and I am grateful to President Jackson for championing this cause for so long. Mainers fund public works projects with their tax dollars, and it is the State’s responsibility to do everything it can to maximize the value of those dollars. This means buying products made locally, employing local labor, and supporting Maine companies whenever possible.

By implementing policies that prioritize these practices, we keep our tax dollars in our communities, instead of sending them out of state or out of the country. This keeps money circulating in our towns, where it can benefit Mainers most. It means more jobs are available for Mainers who are looking for work, increasing our tax base and growing our economy. The value all Mainers get in return when we select local manufacturers and companies to construct public works projects is something that needs to be reflected in state policy.

Companies that choose to do business in Maine and in the United States agree to abide by environmental, safety, and financial guidelines that are not always present in other parts of the world. Indeed, lower standards – meaning lower costs – elsewhere is a big factor in why American companies move overseas. Companies that choose to do business here, to employ our friends and neighbors and to invest their tax dollars in our communities, deserve a fair shot at being awarded contracts.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill; I believe LD 1411 provides an important and necessary step in investing in Maine businesses and Maine workers. I urge you to vote ought to pass.

Sincerely,

Chloe Maxmin