

**TESTIMONY OF TIMOTHY OUELLETTE  
IN OPPOSITION TO LD 1411**

**An Act To Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act**

**Committee On State and Local Government**

**Wednesday May 5, 2021**

Good morning Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and distinguished members of the Committee on State and Local Government. My name is Tim Ouellette, I live in Scarborough, and I am one of the owners of CPM Constructors, a construction company based in Freeport. We employ 100 people across Maine. I also previously served as Board President for AGC Maine, an association representing nearly 200 construction firms and thousands of construction workers in the state.

I am submitting my testimony in opposition to LD 1411, An Act To Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act.

While I personally support the idea of buying Maine-made and American-made products, it is unrealistic to mandate these requirements for state purchasing. The proposed bill would create conditions where prices increase and various product purchases are delayed.

Additionally, while limiting Maine contracts to Maine contractors sounds like a good idea, this could lead neighboring states to bar Maine contractors from their market. A large number of Maine construction firms like ours do work in New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts. If these states decide to bar out-of-state contractors from bidding on their work because of this bill, Maine companies will be hurt. Construction prices in Maine would increase, since Maine contractors would have a limited market (Maine only) and less chance for growth.

I encourage you to vote against this bill. Thank you for your time.