

**Testimony of Linda Caprara
Vice President of Advocacy
Maine State Chamber of Commerce
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government in opposition to
L.D. 1983, An Act to Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act.
February 27, 2024**

Good Afternoon, Sen. Rep. and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. My name is Linda Caprara. I am the Vice President of Advocacy for the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and a resident of Winthrop. We are here to testify in opposition to L.D. 1983, An Act to Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act.

We oppose this bill and the most recent version of the amendment for several reasons. It sets forth all sorts of stipulations for construction contracts for bidding work for the state of Maine. The stipulations in both the “build Maine” provisions and the “Buy America” provisions are unworkable with today’s supply chain and workforce issues. For example, it requires that all manufactured goods be made in the US. Given the serious supply chain issues the country has had over the past several years, the labor shortages and lengthy delays for construction work itself, we feel this legislation makes all of these factors and timelines for construction work much worse.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.