

MAINE STATE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

PORTLAND
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AFFILIATES

Int'l. Brotherhood of
Boilermakers, Iron Ship
Builders, Blacksmiths,
Forgers & Helpers,
Local 29

Int'l. Union of
Bricklayers & Allied
Craft Workers, Local 3

United Brotherhood of
Carpenters, Local 1996

Int'l. Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers,
Locals 104, 567 & 1253

Int'l Union of Elevator
Constructors, Local 4

Int'l. Brotherhood of
Heat & Frost Insulators
& Asbestos Workers,
Local 6

Int'l. Association of
Bridge, Structural,
Ornament & Reinforcing
Iron Workers, Local 7

Laborers Int'l. Union,
Local 327

Eastern Millwrights
Local 1121

Int'l. Union of Operating
Engineers, Local 4

Int'l. Union of Painters
& Allied Trades,
District Council 35

United Assoc. of
Journeyman &
Apprentices of the
Plumbing & Pipefitting
Industry, Local 716

United Union of Roofers,
Waterproofers & Allied
Workers, Local 33

Sheet Metal Workers
Int'l. Association,
Local 17

United Assoc. Sprinkler
Fitters, Local 669

Int'l. Brotherhood
of Teamsters, Local 340

Statement of Jason J. Shedlock, Executive Director of the Maine State Building & Construction Trades Council and Executive Board Member, Maine AFL-CIO.

Good afternoon Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. My name is Jason J. Shedlock, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine State Building & Construction Trades Council. We represent 15 trades and nearly 5,000 workers across the state of Maine and I am here to testify in support of LD 1282: "An Act to Establish a Green New Deal for Maine."

I rise in support of this legislation not only because it's the right step forward in equipping Maine to meet the environmental demands of both the present and future, but also because in doing so, we can meet the workforce needs now and on the horizon as well. I applaud Representative Maxmin and all of the cosponsors of this legislation for their foresight and practical judgment they used to craft this bill and its accompanying iterations. We are especially pleased that the authors saw the benefit of incorporating job training into the green economy to ensure we are properly training the next generation of our Maine workforce.

Put simply, the plan to phase in a registered apprenticeship requirement makes good environmental and economic sense. Ensuring that we are building in a state-approved way that will augment our already highly-trained and effective workforce means that more Mainers will be able to sustain good paying careers with benefits for their families. And with the rate at which our construction workforce is aging, we're at a critical moment where we must backfill the massive amount of retirements across the construction industry. Registered apprenticeship is a proven way to meet that goal. The state's apprenticeship office does an amazing job empowering businesses and learners alike, and we look forward to continuing our work with them to meet this growing need.

The affiliates of the Maine State Building & Construction Trades Council are proud to be on the forefront of making sure that the new green economy works for everyone. We look forward to our role in helping the state meet the environmental goals set out in LD 1282 and being a helping hand as future plans and policy is developed to shrink our carbon footprint. On behalf of the workers we represent, and the environment they live in, we urge the committee to vote ought to pass on LD 1282. Thank you and I am happy to take any questions you may have.