

**TESTIMONY OF NICK PAQUET**  
**IBEW LOCAL 1253, DIRECTOR of BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology

Public Hearing Date: April 23, 2019

Good afternoon Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and members of the committee. My name is Nick Paquet. I am an electrician, the Director of Business Development at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1253 and I live in Benton. I am here today to strongly support LD 1282, "At Act to Establish a Green New Deal for Maine."

The scientific evidence is overwhelming — climate change poses an imminent threat to life on this planet. And the only way we're going to be able to stop this dangerous trend is if we end our dependence on fossil fuels and make ambitious investments in renewable energy. While the threat of climate change is serious, it's also an opportunity to transition to a renewable energy economy and create good paying local jobs with retirement and benefits.

But in order to make sure these jobs pay living wages and ensure that the work is done right, it is critical that workers have a seat at the table. That's why we are grateful that Representative Maxmin solicited input from workers for the drafting of this bill. By requiring that up to a quarter of the workforce on these large renewable energy projects will be trained through state and federally registered apprenticeships, this will ensure that we have the skilled workforce that this legislation will require. In our experience, these apprenticeships are the best way to ensure that the work is done safely and correctly and that the jobs will pay a middle class wages.

Our members have a lot of experience working on renewable energy projects and we're ready to work! We strongly urge you to support LD 1282 to fight climate change and create good jobs for Maine workers. Thank you.