

## Testimony in Favor of LD1769

Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia Phinney. I live in New Sharon and I serve as the Business Manager of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1837. Our union represents approximately 1000 members in the state of Maine, most of whom work in the electric generation and distribution industries.

I would like to offer testimony in favor of LD1769. Our members live and work in Maine and pay taxes here. While most of our jobs are not directly threatened by sweatshop competitors, we do rely on a healthy Maine Economy to keep our members' jobs viable. The existence of sweatshops threatens every business that tries to do the right thing by its workers, and when Maine businesses can't compete, we all lose.

We applaud the sponsors of LD1769 for putting forward a bill that helps make sure that the tax dollars we pay to the State of Maine are not supporting employers who are profiting at the expense of livable conditions for their workers.

The standards in LD1769 are basic and achievable. The bill provides meaningful procedures for the State to be able to ensure that the standards are being met.

We believe that LD1769 is good for workers, and good for businesses that want to provide living wages and decent conditions for their employees.