

Testimony of Matthew Glavin

Business Agent, Ironworkers Local 7

President, Vermont Building Trades Council

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INTRODUCTION

Chair Clarkson, Vice Chair Ram Hinsdale, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Matthew Glavin, Business Agent for Ironworkers Local 7 and President of the Vermont Building Trades Council, representing thousands of skilled construction workers across Vermont.

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNION LABOR

Union labor isn't just a workforce preference, it directly impacts quality, safety, efficiency, and long-term economic stability.

QUALITY & SKILLED CONSTRUCTION

Union apprenticeship programs produce highly trained workers with years of hands-on experience, ensuring durable and resilient housing.

SAFETY & EFFICIENCY

Safety is embedded in union culture and training, reducing delays and ensuring predictable project timelines.

PROJECT STABILITY

PLAs help maintain a reliable supply of skilled workers, limiting disruptions and keeping projects on schedule.

HELMETS TO HARDHATS

This program through the National Building Trades Unions or NABTU connects veterans to tuition-free apprenticeships, GI Bill benefits, and long-term career pathways.

APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS

NABTU's 1,600+ training centers produce the safest and most productive workforce, protecting Vermont's investment.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Union wages and benefits strengthen local economies, support families, and ensure public dollars generate public value.

CONCLUSION

Using union labor delivers quality, safety, on-time completion, a strong workforce pipeline, and accountability—while supporting veterans, working families, and Vermont communities. I will answer any questions at this time and thank you for allowing me to be in front of this committee this morning.