



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

8 July 2013

The 126th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 126th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 890, "An Act To Buy American-made Products."

Setting the substance of this bill aside, I have major concerns with any bill that is projected to cost nearly \$300,000 but the cost is mysteriously cut to \$40,000 in the last moments of a legislative session. Additionally, I question why we are spending over \$10,000 through LD 1554 trying to promote cross-border trade with Canada and simultaneously cutting them off from opportunities to trade with us. It seems inconsistent, at best.

The simple fact is that, on May 1, 2012, I signed an Executive Order directing the use of Maine-focused economic impact criteria in the evaluation of competitive bids. When spending taxpayer dollars, the State should look to ensure we get the best possible deal, and that includes dividends earned by spending money at home. My administration has been and will continue to be focused on doing just that.

My concern with this bill is that it is too restrictive and does not recognize the realities of the Maine economy today. We have companies like L.L. Bean which source and sell products all over the world. We have Maine lobster certified by the Marine Stewardship Council, allowing us to gain market share all over the world. And my administration has been focused on lowering energy costs, recruiting other New England states to follow our lead, by reaching out to Quebec and their vast hydroelectric resources. The reality is we live in a global world and this law, while small in the big picture, could cause negative consequences for Maine businesses if other countries followed our lead.

Mainers and Americans can compete with any country in the world in both quality and price if we compete on a level playing field. Letting this bill become law would say to American workers that their products cannot compete unless the deck is stacked in their favor. I cannot and will not say that. In Augusta, we must refocus our

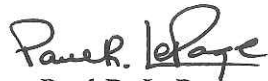


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efforts to help Maine companies compete globally – that is how we will make our economy strong.

For these reasons, I return LD 890 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor