



# MAINE LEGISLATURE

STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

Dannel Malloy, Chancellor  
Trish Riley, Chair, Board of Trustees  
15 Estabrooke Drive  
Orono, ME 04469

Dear Chancellor Malloy, Chair Riley, and members of the Board of Trustees,

It has come to our attention that graduate workers at the University of Maine System (UMS) have organized a union - the University of Maine Graduate Workers Union UAW (UMGWU-UAW). A majority of the graduate workers have signed cards indicating their desire to bargain collectively with UMS.

We are calling on the UMaine System to agree to a fair and expeditious process to verify that a majority of graduate workers have signed authorization cards in support of the union, and for them to recognize the union so that you and they can start the process of bargaining for a contract.

Graduate workers have a great love for the research, teaching, and community at the University. By forming a union, they believe they can better use their collective voice to help improve their livelihoods, working conditions, and more.

The University of Maine System, which includes an R1 research university, is a tremendous institution that benefits our entire state. Graduate workers are a huge part of this success. The cutting-edge research and teaching that UMS graduate workers are doing makes a positive impact in the lives of people in Maine and beyond. These essential workers deserve to have a voice on the job, just like the vast majority of other UMS employees. Also, the undergraduate education experience is tied directly to teachers' working conditions; in that sense, a rising tide lifts all boats.

These workers have the legal right to organize without retaliation or intimidation. The decision to organize is a fundamental right and should be up to the workers to make that decision free from interference.

We, as elected leaders and members of the community, call on the University of Maine System to voluntarily recognize the union and come to the table to negotiate a fair contract.

Respectfully,

  
Senate President Troy Jackson, Allagash

  
Speaker of the House Rachel Talbot Ross, Portland

Senate Majority Leader Eloise Vitelli, Arrowsic  
Assistant Senate Majority Leader Matthea Daughtry, Brunswick  
House Majority Leader Maureen Terry, Gorham  
Assistant House Majority Leader Kristin Cloutier, Lewiston

Senator Donna Bailey, Saco  
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Senator Nicole Grohoski, Ellsworth  
Senator Craig Hickman, Winthrop  
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Senator David LaFountain, Winslow  
Senator Tim Nangle, Windham  
Senator Joe Rafferty, Kennebunk  
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Senator Margaret Rotundo, Lewiston  
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Representative Vicki Doudera, Camden  
Representative Drew Gattine, Westbrook  
Representative Cheryl Golek, Harpswell  
Representative Anne Graham, North Yarmouth  
Representative Tavis Rock Hasenfus, Winthrop  
Representative Allison Hepler, Woolwich  
Representative Rebecca Jauch, Topsham  
Representative Amy Kuhn, Falmouth  
Representative Raegan LaRochelle, Augusta  
Representative Adam Lee, Auburn  
Representative Grayson Lookner, Portland  
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