

State of Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future 181 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333-0181

## Testimony In Support of L.D. 337, An Act to Amend the Regulations of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing

January 23, 2024

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing, my name is Greg Payne and I serve as the Senior Advisor on Housing Policy in the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. I am here today to offer testimony in support of L.D. 337, An Act to Amend the Regulations of Manufactured Housing to Increase Affordable Housing.

The manufactured housing industry offers high-quality products that are virtually indistinguishable from traditional "site-built" housing. This approach also has real potential to help reduce housing production costs in Maine. There has been a great deal of bipartisan interest in exploring further investment in manufactured housing in Maine, especially as construction costs rise and this alternative approach offers opportunities for savings over traditional construction.

This proposal makes clear that manufactured homes must comply with state and federal standards, and ultimately allows more options for households who seek desperately needed housing in our state. We see no reason why this approach to housing creation should continue to be sidelined as an option, and thank Representative Golek bringing for bringing this bill forward to change that.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.