

Gina Morin  
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LD 258

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Select Committee on Housing: my name is Gina Morin and I live in Auburn. I am writing to ask you to invest in affordable housing for all Mainers.

I have entirely too much familiarity with Maine's lack of affordable housing. In 2016, I was forced out of my home and I lived in my car for ten days. I struggled to eat and stay warm. I had to go to my storage unit just to heat water for ramen noodles. I used a quarter of a tank of gas just to try to keep warm at night. After that, I rented a motel room where I lived for the next four and a half years. I was lucky I had just enough resources to rent that room, but I was stuck there—keeping that small bit of roof over my head made it nearly impossible to pay for a deposit on a real apartment, and rents were going up all the time.

I finally found a good, affordable apartment through dumb luck. My apartment has changed my life. I'm actually living again, not just surviving, and I'm so grateful. I've been able to help others who needed a safe place to stay while getting back on their feet. People like me should not be living in motels. We need safe, affordable housing. Please make this investment now, so future Mainers will be able to thrive.