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## Testimony in Support of LD 470 (“An Act to Support Lead Abatement in Older Residential Properties”)

**J. Andrew Cashman on behalf of the Maine Association of REALTORS®**

**April 14, 2023**

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere and members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing, my name is Andy Cashman. I am the Founder of Resolve Government Relations. We represent the Maine Association of REALTORS®, a professional trade association established in 1936 with over 6,500 members statewide. REALTORS® grow Maine’s economy and build Maine communities. Our members represent buyers and sellers involved in both residential and commercial real estate transactions. Our membership also includes industry affiliates, such as lenders, closing agents, title agents, appraisers, building inspectors, surveyors, etc. The Maine Association is chartered by the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), the largest trade association in the country.

The Maine Association of REALTORS® supports LD 470. The bill provides an ongoing \$1,000,000 appropriation to support the Maine State Housing Authority’s lead abatement program.

The Association recognizes the health impacts that lead poisoning can cause and has long-supported efforts to educate homeowners and to mitigate the dangers of lead poisoning. MAR supports consumer education about voluntary testing and inspections so that buyers and sellers can make their own informed decisions. Our members provide educational literature to all potential homebuyers on lead poisoning and during the transaction they encourage homebuyers to screen a property for lead. We are committed to improving the safety and quality of Maine’s aging housing stock and ensuring that every individual should have opportunities to live in safe and decent housing that is affordable to them. LD 470 would ensure that more people can be protected by the abatement of lead in properties throughout our state.

For these reasons, we support LD 470 and respectfully urge you to vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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