



Testimony in Support

LD 226, An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis

April 14, 2023

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and Honorable Members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing;

On behalf of the Maine Real Estate and Development Association (MEREDA), I am testifying in support of LD 226, An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis.

MEREDA is Maine's premiere trade association representing commercial real estate and the state's housing creators. MEREDA members are housing creators, engineers, architects, designers, bankers, lawyers, brokers, and many other organizations involved in the real estate industry. MEREDA's guiding principle is the promotion of responsible real estate development – responsible real estate development *is* community development. Through the advocacy efforts of its Public Policy Committee, MEREDA works to advance a more fair, practical, and predictable policy landscape for housing creation in Maine.

MEREDA supports LD 226 because it represents a beginning – we strongly believe that something more in the neighborhood of \$500 million would be necessary to fully address Maine's housing crisis in a way that provides the long-term stability and safe, quality housing that our Mainers deserve.

MEREDA will support the passage of LD 226 off the Special Appropriations Table if the Housing Committee sees fit to recommend the bill and the legislature supports its passage.

Sincerely

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On behalf of Maine Real Estate & Development Association
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