

April 25, 2023



Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 1074 and urge you to vote in favor of this bill. As the Advocacy Team Lead for Dignity First, a Bangor-based nonprofit, working to create and sustain a village of no-barrier, recovery-oriented, permanent supportive housing for unhoused people and intentional neighbors, I understand firsthand the importance of affordable housing for low-income households.

LD 1074 represents an opportunity for the state of Maine to invest in its people by providing \$100 million in funds to build new affordable housing for low-income households through the construction of new structures and adaptive reuse of existing structures. For too long, affordable housing has been an elusive dream for many Maine residents, including those in the Greater Bangor area. The need for affordable housing is dire, with a projected funding shortfall of \$26.2 million over the next 5 years for workforce housing alone, according to a recent study made public by the city of Bangor.

Moreover, the current vacancy rate for rental units in the city of Bangor is less than 5%, which is even lower for people with low or no income, criminal history, low or no credit, previous evictions, or are currently unhoused. The lack of affordable housing has far-reaching consequences, including increased homelessness, higher rates of evictions, and a negative impact on the local economy.

LD 1074 is not just about building new structures; it is about providing a foundation for dignity, security, and opportunity for our fellow Mainers. By investing in affordable housing, we can ensure that Mainers have access to safe, stable, and affordable homes. This will benefit individual families and have ripple effects throughout our communities and economy. Affordable housing means more money spent in local businesses, fewer evictions, healthier residents, more job opportunities, and increased revenue for municipalities. LD 1074 is an investment in the people of Maine, and the benefits will be felt for generations to come.

In conclusion, I urge you to support LD 1074 and help make affordable housing a reality for all Mainers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Michael Beck



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