



Date May 8, 2023

Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine testimony to the Committee on Housing in support of LD 1752 – Resolve, to Prepare Preapproved Building Types

To Chairperson Pierce, Chairperson Gere, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing.

My name is Rebekah Lane and I am the Community Organizer for Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine. I am here today to express our support, and ask for your support, of LD Resolve, to Prepare Preapproved Building Types

The mission of Good Shepherd Food Bank is to eliminate hunger in Maine by improving access to nutritious food for people in need, building strong community partnerships, and mobilizing the public in the fight to end hunger. Good Shepherd Food Bank works in partnership with nearly 600 organizations to help distribute food to community members in need. Our network of partner agencies includes food pantries, meal sites, senior centers, school programs, and healthcare facilities. In our work centering equity, we are increasingly working with communities of color to address food security in a culturally responsive way.

We believe there is a solution to the problem of hunger in Maine. Working in partnership with the state legislature we can and will help reduce the impact of hunger in our state and make Maine a stronger, better place to work and live.

The ability to streamline the process around building permit applications by the creation of these preapproved building types will help getting people into stable housing situations faster, which will lead to better overall outcomes around hunger, as well.

During a recent advocacy meeting we talked about how housing is a close second to general food access when it comes to anti-hunger work. Housing stabilization means more capacity for individuals to address hunger needs, it also means access to kitchen space to prepare meals, a place to eat with dignity, and the ability to access community in a more permanent way.

Reducing the cost and time associated with building permit applications means more housing can be created in our state that meets the needs of those facing housing instability and food insecurity while also ensuring that the environmental impacts of these buildings have been considered without each local municipality having to verify each permit individually.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Lane, Community Organizer, rlane@gsfb.org

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