

TO: Maine State Committee On Housing
RE: LD 1673 An Act to Encourage Affordable Housing and Mixed-use Development by
Establishing a Thriving Corridors Program

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

I am writing today in support of LD 1673 An Act to Encourage Affordable Housing and Mixed-use Development by Establishing a Thriving Corridors Program. The focused energy on corridors that this legislation would create will add value to areas with existing infrastructure, leveraging existing investments. Municipalities in Maine would benefit from the assistance this would offer to help coordinate and plan in areas where there is often shared municipal and state roles. The development of policies and tools that allow for increased development of affordable housing and other mixed uses are key economic drivers for economic growth and addressing the deficit of housing affecting employers' hiring and residents' lives.

Businesses comment every day about their need to find employees housing, and often outdated zoning restrictions prohibit the development most needed. As a business serving organization that represents 800 businesses and 40,000 employees across Androscoggin County, we hear the pain points about development and housing often. Additionally, in our work supporting startups and small businesses, the small footprint buildings ideal for new businesses are often hard to find with current zoning. This bill provides lawmakers the opportunity to support municipal and state coordination, thoughtful planning, and investments to existing taxpayers that will benefit residents, employers, and towns alike. I encourage the committee to vote to pass LD 1673.

Thank you,
Shanna Cox



President + CEO
Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce