

May 11, 2023

Special Select Committee on Housing
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 1721, An Act to Create Transitional Housing Communities for Homeless Populations in the State

Dear Senator Pierce and Representative Gere, and Committee members:

Please accept this letter as my testimony in support of LD 1721, *An Act to Create Transitional Housing Communities for Homeless Populations in the State*.

The crisis in housing can no longer be absorbed in one city or one region within our state. This bill can begin to successfully orchestrate the multitude of needs connected to a solid, humane and sustainable housing solution for all of Maine.

Without a change in policy, we will see increasing numbers of people with no hope for an opportunity to become productive members of our great state. Safe homes, realistic transitions, and real opportunity all begin with a solid plan.

LD 1721, if given the support needed to succeed, will be the start of a real long-term solution to transition from frustration and chaos to success.

I apologize I could not testify in person, but thank you for the opportunity to share my support for LD 1721.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William R. Shane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William R. Shane, Town Manager
Cumberland, Maine