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**Maine Indoor Air Quality Council Testimony in Support of
LD 1173: An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Home Building Contractors**

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council (“MIAQC” or the “Council”) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating healthy, productive and environmentally sustainable indoor environments in Maine. Our efforts focus on the development of education, communications, and advocacy for safe and healthy indoor environments where Maine citizens live, work, play and learn.

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council submits this testimony in support of LD 1173, LD 1173: An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Home Building Contractors

Testimony

Contractor licensing in Maine would close a life safety gap.

- Buildings have one primary purpose: to protect people. Buildings create a habitable environment when conditions outdoors are not.
- Maine currently licenses a variety of professions whose services protect the health and safety of building occupants: electricians, plumbers, HVAC contractors, architects, engineers, and more.
- Yet the one profession MOST responsible for creating a safe and healthy indoor environment--building contractors--has been curiously omitted from Maine’s licensing infrastructure, leading to a gap of professional knowledge for creating built environments that won’t harm people.

Uniformity currently lacking.

Maine has already invested a lot of time and resources to create a uniform building code that all communities can use to ensure that their newly constructed or renovated buildings don’t harm the people in them. Yet, those with the greatest responsibility for implementing the MUBEC (Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code) are currently provided the least support for doing so. This results in a lack of statewide uniformity for the construction of healthy, energy-efficient buildings, primarily because builders aren’t trained on how to meet the code. While LD 1929 doesn’t specifically address

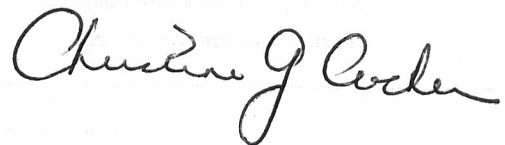
code courses for licensed contractors, it does set a minimum requirement of education for licensure and directs additional education considerations to be addressed through rulemaking.

MIAQC is available to help.

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council has been working with and providing training to members of Maine's construction community for 25 years. The Council would be happy to work with those tasked with creating and implementing the rules for contractor training and compliance.

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council is willing to answer any questions or provide additional information to assist you at the work session.

Respectfully submitted by:



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