



**131<sup>st</sup> Legislature**  
**Joint Select Committee on Housing**

**Testimony of Laura Mitchell, Executive Director of the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition**

**November 28, 2023**

**In favor of LD 1505- An Act Amend the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act**  
**- sponsored by Representative Cloutier**

Good afternoon, Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and esteemed members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing, my name is Laura Mitchell, I serve as the Executive Director of the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition.

The Maine Affordable Housing Coalition (MAHC) is a nonprofit membership organization of more than 140 Maine housing development, architecture, construction, design, engineering, shelter, and housing services organizations. We work to solve Maine's housing crisis by advocating for the creation and preservation of housing for all people in Maine.

**MAHC is sharing this testimony today in favor of LD 1505**, An Act to Amend the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act sponsored by Representative Cloutier. This bill amends the Maine Cooperative Affordable Housing Ownership Act to include group equity cooperatives. It also provides that a housing assistance program must be made reasonably available to residents of housing cooperatives. Thus, making it easier for low-income residents to benefit from cooperative housing in Maine through group equity housing cooperatives, and have those residents access housing and utility assistance programs. We believe this statute change, with no fiscal impact, can help low-income Maine people in need of housing stability.

Thank you.

Laura Mitchell  
Portland  
LD 1505

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Thank you.