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**Testimony in Support of LD 1027
("An Act to Prohibit Local Sales Taxes")**

J. Andrew Cashman on behalf of the Maine Association of REALTORS®

January 9, 2024

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Andy Cashman. I am the Founder of Resolve Government Relations, and we represent the Maine Association of REALTORS®, a professional trade association established in 1936 with over 6,500 members statewide. REALTORS® grow Maine's economy and build Maine communities. Our members represent buyers and sellers involved in both residential and commercial real estate transactions. Our membership also includes industry affiliates, such as lenders, closing agents, title agents, appraisers, building inspectors, surveyors, etc. The Maine Association is chartered by the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), the largest trade association in the country.

The Maine Association of REALTORS® supports LD 1027 because it prohibits local sales taxes thereby protecting against increasing the tax burden on Maine people. Maine is one of the highest taxed states in the country. Local sales taxes compound that problem and deter businesses and opportunities for economic growth, which negatively impact Maine's economic sustainability. Additional tax burden increases a household's cost of living, and their ability to secure or maintain housing. Increasing sales tax would further contribute to Maine's housing challenges and discourage the needed workforce from choosing to call Maine home. Housing supply and our workforce are already struggling in our state, we should be working toward policies for today and tomorrow that will encourage a balanced economy that is business-friendly and desirable for its current and prospective residents. This bill would protect Maine's people, in particular lower income residents trying to secure housing and employment. Increasing taxes overall, at the expense of economic growth, is not sustainable for Maine.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1027. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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