

Dear Maine Legislatures,

Jan. 22, 2024

I ask you to support LD 337. The Maine Association of Planners has been working diligently to assist the communities they serve and address the lack of affordable housing. This creative option offers an opportunity to increase affordable housing in every community in Maine.

LD 337 would help take another step towards chipping away at the tens of thousands of new affordable housing units currently needed in Maine.

The lack of affordable housing and the fact that Maine is, by the census, the oldest state in the union with a median age of 45 poses another challenge. As Mainers retire from the workforce, no one is stepping into their roles. Traditional “stick-built” homes are still being built. However, they tend to be the more high-end properties that are unaffordable for the average Maine household. With Maine's limited number of building contractors, this bill would also help accelerate affordable units coming online quickly.

The manufactured homes built today are energy efficient and attractive and do not require a team of contractors onsite for six months. LD #337 will help to create affordable housing units quickly and encourage Mainers to stay in Maine because they will have access to an affordable housing option that previously did not exist in our state.

I appreciate your consideration.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Schwebler
Co-Program Director
New England Resident Owned Communities
Cooperative Development Institute**

pschwebler@cdi.coop

Pat Schwebler
Cooperative Development Institute
LD 337

Dear Maine Legislatures,

Jan. 22, 2024

I ask you to support LD 337. The Maine Association of Planners has been working diligently to assist the communities they serve and address the lack of affordable housing. This creative option offers an opportunity to increase affordable housing in every community in Maine.

LD 337 would help take another step towards chipping away at the tens of thousands of new affordable housing units currently needed in Maine.

The lack of affordable housing and the fact that Maine is, by the census, the oldest state in the union with a median age of 45 poses another challenge. As Mainers retire from the workforce, no one is stepping into their roles. Traditional “stick-built” homes are still being built. However, they tend to be the more high-end properties that are unaffordable for the average Maine household. With Maine's limited number of building contractors, this bill would also help accelerate affordable units coming online quickly.

The manufactured homes built today are energy efficient and attractive and do not require a team of contractors onsite for six months. LD #337 will help to create affordable housing units quickly and encourage Mainers to stay in Maine because they will have access to an affordable housing option that previously did not exist in our state.

I appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Schwebler
Co-Program Director
New England Resident Owned Communities
Cooperative Development Institute
pschwebler@cdi.coop