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LD 2240: An Act to Implement Protections Against Deed Fraud

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

My name is Nancy Hammond, and I am the Register of Deeds for York County, submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Registers of Deeds Association in favor of LD 2240: An Act to Implement Protections Against Deed Fraud.

The Registers of Deeds frequently receive questions from people that are concerned about ongoing fraud and wish to “Lock” their title. Although we cannot and do not give legal advice, we are still asked what can be done to protect their property. There is Fraud Alert available as a free service provided by our software support, however that is only after a document is recorded. It would be wonderful for our constituents and for us to have notices and publications that can be distributed to all property owners to aid them in protecting their property in Maine.

The authorization for the Registers to distribute these notices and publications as outlined in this legislation would be a first step in assisting property owners.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2240. The Registers would be happy to answer any questions.