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**Maine Mayors Coalition Testimony on
LD 427, An Act to Prohibit Mandatory Parking Space Minimums in State and
Municipal Building Codes, and LD 659, An Act to Reduce Housing Costs by Not
Requiring Fire Sprinkler Systems for Single-family Homes and Duplexes**

Senator Curry, Representative Gere and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, the Maine Mayors Coalition is providing testimony in opposition to LD 427, An Act to Prohibit Mandatory Parking Space Minimums in State and Municipal Building Codes, and LD 659, An Act to Reduce Housing Costs by Not Requiring Fire Sprinkler Systems for Single-family Homes and Duplexes.

The Maine Mayors Coalition is a nonpartisan group representing the mayors of eleven Maine communities – Auburn, Bangor, Biddeford, Lewiston, Portland, Rockland, Saco, Sanford, South Portland, Waterville and Westbrook – and nearly 300,000 residents. The Coalition advocates on behalf of our citizens and municipalities for policies that recognize the vital services Maine cities provide and the positive impact Maine cities have on our state. The Coalition seeks to work in partnership with state and federal elected officials to meet the needs of Maine people.

Our Coalition stands in strong support of local control for Maine municipalities. This is one of the foundations of our state's system of government. Importantly for us, on municipal matters and local issues, it allows our cities to decide what is right and what is fair for our citizens and our communities.

This is the reason we oppose LD 427 and LD 659. Both these bills would impinge on local control, placing jurisdiction over portions of our building codes directly into the hands of the state. While these bills are specific to parking space and fire sprinkler requirements, passing this legislation would establish a precedent that could extend to other municipal ordinances.

We ask you to give careful consideration to the potential impacts of these bills and to vote against LD 427 and LD 659.

Thank you for your time.