



Testimony of The Maine Real Estate Managers Association

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO LD 824 — “An Act Regarding Pet Fees in Rental Housing”.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, my name is Amy Racine, and I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Real Estate Managers Association (MREMA) in opposition to LD 824 “An Act Regarding Pet Fees in Rental Housing”.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Our organization is a nonprofit which represents over 80 professional property management companies providing affordable and subsidized housing throughout the state. It is within our mission to promote the availability of safe, decent affordable housing in Maine. Our management members are both for-profit and nonprofit landlords that believe in this mission.

MREMA supports the ability for residents to have pets. The majority of our members manage affordable housing, which allows a pet deposit but prohibits pet fees. But some of our members have mixed income properties, an important housing model to integrate households of different socio-economic backgrounds into the same apartment community. For households paying market rent, these property management companies charge a one-time \$250 pet fee (non-refundable) per pet at move in with a \$25 pet rent for cats, and \$50 for dogs. This pet rent is used to maintain pet amenities such as dog parks/wash, pet stations, and Doggie DNA kits that would not otherwise exist. We would like to continue to allow pets and offer these amenities to keep the pets clean, have outdoor space to play and move and an overall healthy experience in our apartments. A reasonable fee allows that to happen. For this reason, we need to oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Amy Racine Maine Real Estate Manager’s Association

