



Holly Rae Eaton

P.O. Box 277

Deer Isle, ME 04627

Phone: (207) 610-9281

Holly.Eaton@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

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Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton

LD 1016 – An Act to Establish the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund

Submitted to the Housing and Economic Development Committee

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development. My name is Holly Eaton, and I represent House District 15, which includes the communities of Deer Isle, Stonington, Brooklin, Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Frenchboro, Swan's Island, Isle au Haut and Vinalhaven.

I'm writing in strong support of LD 1016 because I believe that any measure that helps Maine residents move toward homeownership is worth supporting. In my district, like many others, families are struggling to find and afford housing that allows them to stay in the communities where they were raised or where they've built their livelihoods.

While manufactured housing isn't always an easy option in parts of my district—especially where transportation to unbridged islands presents real logistical and cost challenges—it remains an important component of the overall strategy to expand access to affordable housing across the state.

This bill could provide stability and empowerment for residents living in mobile home communities by supporting resident and nonprofit ownership. That kind of local control aligns closely with the values of many of the small, tight-knit communities I serve.

As housing costs rise and year-round housing stock becomes more limited, LD 1016 is one tool we can offer to protect affordability and promote homeownership for Mainers. I urge the committee to vote in favor of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven