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Testimony in Support of LD 949 ("An Act to Clarify Licensing Jurisdiction for Manufactured Housing Communities")

J. Andrew Cashman on behalf of the Maine Association of REALTORS®

March 25, 2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere and members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Andy Cashman. I am the Founder of Resolve Government Relations. We represent the Maine Association of REALTORS®, a professional trade association established in 1936 with over 6,500 members statewide. REALTORS® grow Maine's economy and build Maine communities. Our members represent buyers and sellers involved in both residential and commercial real estate transactions. Our membership also includes industry affiliates, such as lenders, closing agents, title agents, appraisers, building inspectors, surveyors, etc. The Maine Association is chartered by the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), the largest trade association in the country.

The Maine Association of REALTORS® supports LD 949 because it would encourage the development of more housing in our state. This bill requires municipalities to accept a license from the Manufactured Housing Board as evidence that the community meets all requirements to operate without charging additional fees to operate or for a permit. The passage of this bill would allow for streamlined housing development that is more affordable and faster to establish. By reducing barriers to development, LD 949 addresses a critical component of the housing shortage: municipal and community regulations that inhibit housing development and prevent economic stability in communities.

MAR supports the adoption and integration of housing policies that respond to the individual and collective housing needs of our communities and for that reason, we support LD 949 and respectfully urge you to vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for your time and consideration.