



March 25, 2025

In Support of LD970: An Act to Prioritize Affordable Housing by Expediting Reviews for Affordable Housing Projects Applying for Funding from the Maine State Housing Authority

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development.

My name is Rose DuBois, I live in Portland, and I am the Program Director for Maine Youth Power. Maine Youth Power is a statewide organization that works with young people, primarily in rural areas, to advocate for a future in Maine where we as young Mainers can all continue to work and afford to live. Over the past four years of work as an organization affordable housing has become significantly more difficult to find, and the young people we represent are finding it a greater and greater burden.

The lack of affordable housing is one of the most important problems facing Maine today, especially for young people. Due to a lack of affordable options, young people are finding themselves priced out of the places they grew up, and unable to remain in the communities in which they live. Skyrocketing housing and rental prices are an increasingly high barrier to continuing to live in Maine, and driving many young people to seek cheaper housing elsewhere. If we want to keep Maine as a place where one can not only grow up, but stay and build a life, we will need to rapidly construct more affordable housing which is not only accessible to the wealthy, but for everyone.

MYP urges you to support LD970 as it will help streamline and speed up the process for the construction of new affordable housing when it is desperately needed. We cannot wait years as delays slow down new construction, as the longer this problem goes on, the worse it will become. If we want to ensure everyone in Maine can afford a home here, we need decisive action on the matter now.

Thank you for your consideration in support of LD970.

Sincerely,
Rose DuBois
Program Director, Maine Youth Power