

Laura Reading
Developers Collaborative
LD 1184

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and Members of the Committee. My name is Laura Reading, I'm the Director of Affordable Housing at Developers Collaborative and more relevant to LD 1184, I was on the Leadership Maine group that researched this issue about a year ago. I am in support of LD 1184 as it will allow our state to track progress on the creation of new housing units and the removal or replacement of existing units. Depending on the municipality, Code Enforcement Officers or third party inspectors typically issue building and demolition permits and certificates of occupancy but there is no current process for sharing that information with the state. While the local cost is projected to be insignificant, there is an opportunity to support municipalities through the existing code enforcement officer training programs through the Office of Maine State Fire Marshal, through local councils of government, or through access to software that would facilitate this data collection. Municipalities that are experiencing a high growth rate would have valuable information to share but may not have staff capacity to do so, so it will be important to support municipalities in this effort. Thank you for considering this.