

Testimony of the Maine Association of Public Housing Directors
LD 1424 “An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Investment in
Workforce Housing and Raise Certain Income Eligibility Limits in the Affordable
Homeownership Program”
Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee
April 9, 2025

Good morning Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine and members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is John Hodge and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Association of Public Housing Directors (MAPHD). MAPHD is strongly in support of LD 1424 “An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Investment in Workforce Housing and Raise Certain Income Eligibility Limits in the Affordable Homeownership Program”, which would provide \$10 million for the Affordable Homeownership Program to support workforce housing to serve households up to 150% of the area median income.

We need not take any of your time to recant the housing needs facing our State. We believe you fully understand the need to increase production and provide more housing opportunities for all segments of our society.

For more than 75 years, Maine’s local housing authorities have developed and managed affordable housing for our most vulnerable populations. We stand ready to assist our communities and address the housing needs of our State. Many local housing authorities are working diligently to develop additional affordable housing but lack sufficient subsidies to get these projects in the ground.

Presently, the 22 agencies have approximately 1,500 units in the early phase of development but lacking the necessary subsidy to make these units a reality. We also have 569 existing affordable housing units that need funds to preserve their affordability and viability. We know that you see the value in these programs and will do your best to provide the necessary funds. To that end, we also support the following proposals for consideration before you:

- LD 690 “An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide Funding for Affordable and Low-income Housing Programs” which would provide \$100 million for Maine Housing’s affordable housing programs.
- LD 483, “An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Secure Prosperity for Maine Families and Businesses”, which provides \$125 million to the State’s Low Income Housing Tax Credit program and Maine Housing’s Rural Affordable Housing and the First Time Home buyer’s programs. These programs are critical to keep up with the production demand for more units.

We thank you for your work to support affordable housing, and thank you for your time and consideration of this vital issue.