

Jesse Thompson
Portland
LD 690

Dear Appropriations Committee members, my name is Jesse Thompson from Portland and I am writing in support of LD690 Housing Bond funding.

I am an architect who works every day on affordable housing. I see every day just how desperate Maine residents are for safe places that they can afford to live. A new building we design might have 1,000 people on the waiting list to live in a building with 40 apartments. The statistics I see are that we need 40,000 new homes right now, and another 40,000 by 2030 (only 5 years away!). If we had these homes built in our state our kids would not have to leave the state, and our businesses could expand knowing employees had safe places to live.

In the last year we have had 3 affordable housing projects that were unable to be funded and move ahead into construction that this funding could perhaps have supported. Rural Rental buildings in Norway and Kingfield Maine, and two projects in Lewiston Maine all needed more financial support to be able to move ahead than was available at the time. LD690 would help these buildings and others move ahead and is incredibly needed in our state, especially with the possible decrease in Federal funding going forward.

Thank you for your support of LD690,

Jesse Thompson
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