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Testimony in Support of:

LD 1232: An Act to Require Radon Testing in New Commercial and Residential Construction

Bill Amendment

I am Norman Anderson. I have been an environmental public health scientist for approximately 45 years with work in federal and state agencies, foundations, and the non profit sector. I am also a current Board member of the Maine Indoor Air Quality Council.

My testimony in support of the LD 1232 amendment focuses on one small but crucial point. Although we generally refer to the 4 picocurie per liter radon **concentration** as the key benchmark, it is actually the radon **dose** that determines cancer risk. Dose is a function of the radon concentration and how much air we inhale over a period of time. For example, say we inhale about 10,000 liters of air per day and 90% of our day is spent indoors, we would inhale about 9,000 picocuries of radon indoors at a 4 picocurie per liter concentration. Ideally, we would hope that our cumulative dose over the course of a day would not be greater than 9,000 picocuries, whether we are at home, school, work, or a public building. This would mean that wherever we go, and for whatever duration we are there, we would expect the radon concentration to be at or below 4 picocuries per liter.

Consequently, even if people change their residences, work places, or public indoor environments over time, they should not be the concerned that moving among these spaces will increase their radon attributable cancer risk. The amendment closes the loophole that exists around commercial construction currently. Passing the bill amendment would mean that Maine citizens could go from home to school to work and not have to worry about radon exposure in a new building.