

Mayor and Council Offices

Mark Dion

Mayor

April 22, 2025



Testimony of Mayor of the City of Portland, Mark Dion

Before

Housing and Economic Development Committee

In Support of

LD 1287, An Act to Support Workforce Development by Establishing the Housing Stability Fund

April 22, 2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere and members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, I write on behalf of the City of Portland in support of LD 1287, which would establish the Housing Stability Fund to provide rental assistance and housing stabilization support for Maine residents who are participating in workforce training and credentialing programs.

Portland, like many municipalities across Maine, is facing a growing disconnect between the availability of workforce development opportunities and the stability of housing for those trying to pursue them. Without reliable housing, individuals seeking to improve their employment prospects through training programs face enormous challenges in attendance, completion, and long-term success. This bill recognizes that housing is not only a matter of shelter, but also an essential foundation for economic mobility.

LD 1287 would fill a critical gap by providing flexible, targeted assistance to those who are working to build new skills and enter higher-paying industries, but who may lack the housing security needed to stay the course. By tying housing support directly to workforce development, the state can better ensure that investments in training yield durable economic benefits for individuals and communities alike.

Portland supports this bill not only as a housing initiative, but as a smart workforce and economic development strategy. Employers in our region consistently cite the lack of affordable housing as a barrier to recruiting and retaining workers. Providing support to individuals in

training pathways helps bridge this gap while reinforcing statewide efforts to grow a more skilled and stable workforce.

We respectfully urge the Committee to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1287 and to consider it an essential tool in Maine’s housing and workforce development agenda.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Dion", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Dion
Mayor
City of Portland, Maine