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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition to

LD 1375 – Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Address Regulatory Barriers to Housing Construction

April 25, 2025

Sen. Curry, Rep. Gere and distinguished members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, my name is Rebecca Graham, and I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 1375, at the direction of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). Our LPC is composed of municipal officials from across Maine, elected by their peers to represent communities under the legislative senate model and representing communities with vastly different enforcement staff, resources and capacities.

As drafted, this bill creates a working group to address regulatory barriers to housing construction with no explicit or implied membership from those who are forced or directed to adopt regulation either to meet other competing state priorities or locally desired protection activity. The working group at a minimum should include municipal code enforcement officers, or municipal officials who are directed to adopt ordinances to enhance life safety protections, improve the walkability of streets, and mitigate stormwater run off from new impervious surface cover and limit the impact on locally important natural resources.

For these reasons, and without appropriately defined membership of those required to regulate, municipal officials fear this will become an industry echo chamber without the voice of impacted communities and municipal operation included in the discussion. Officials remain opposed until those voices are included.