



Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
April 25, 2025

In support of:

LD 1522 An Act to Establish the Maine Eviction Prevention Program

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Rev. Jane Field** and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Council of Churches, a coalition of seven mainline Protestant denominations that have over 400 local congregations in Maine with more than 50,000 parishioners in their care. Our mission is to speak with a prophetic voice of faith to help build a more just, compassionate and peaceful world. Along with our trusted partner organizations Maine Equal Justice and Preble Street Faith Advocacy Network, **the Council supports LD 1522.**

Our faith-based advocacy is guided by our “Moral Agenda.” Its guidance is clear: **because of our faith, we support policies like LD 1522 that help eliminate hunger and poverty and that benefit the most vulnerable. We advocate for sustainable communities with affordable housing that is accessible to all.**

The pilot project that LD 1522 would build upon **has helped hundreds of Maine families keep a roof over their heads**—families who are among **our most vulnerable neighbors**, families who are **struggling against the scourge of poverty in the face of a housing crisis** that makes housing unaffordable and inaccessible. By preventing nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of evictions in our state, this bill has the power to **keep folks from tumbling further into poverty and into homelessness.**

LD 1522 makes the EPP permanent for low-income Mainers who are renters. It’s the right thing to do for our neighbors in need, for our communities, and for the state.

For these reasons, the Maine Council of Churches urges you to **vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD 1522.**

*Episcopal Diocese of Maine, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA),
Religious Society of Friends, Unitarian Universalist Association, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church*

Jane Field
Portland
LD 1522

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