

Marcus Mrowka  
Camden  
LD 1681

May 2, 2025

Maine Joint Housing and Economic Development Committee  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Members of the Joint Housing and Economic Development Committee:

My name is Marcus Mrowka and I am writing in support of LD 1681, An Act to Consider Municipal Shelter Facilities and Housing Projects Essential for Public Health, Welfare and Safety by Updating the Definition of "Public Service Infrastructure".

I serve on the MSAD #28 School Board. Over the last few years, it has become increasingly hard for teachers to find and afford housing in our area. As a district, we embarked on an innovative solution to our local housing shortage by attempting to convert an historic school building that we own into teacher housing. We had multiple conversations with Maine Housing, housing groups and advocates, and elected officials in Maine seeking support for this project. Unfortunately, we ran into roadblocks at every turn, ranging from teachers not being low income enough to qualify for certain programs to not qualifying for others because we were building housing for a specific group and would have violated fair housing policies for the programs. Due to rising construction costs and without any kind of state or federal support available to us, we were unable to move forward on our project.

Many school districts in Maine own former schools and other property that could be converted into workforce housing, addressing one of the biggest challenges to teacher recruitment in our state—affordable and available housing for teachers. LD 1681 would be a critical new source of funding for municipalities or housing authorities to build types of housing they are not currently able through other state and federal housing programs.

Marcus Mrowka  
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