

Testimony in Support of LD 1806
An Act to Create a Residential Rental Unit Registry

Good afternoon Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development. My name is Scott Harriman, I live in Lewiston, and I am testifying **in support of** LD 1806, An Act to Create a Residential Rental Unit Registry."

The city of Lewiston created a rental registration program a few years ago, and it has been a success in gathering important housing data as well as providing both tenants and city staff with contact information in the case of an emergency or issues with a building that need to be addressed.

I previously served on the city's Housing Committee, which has used the data from this registry to determine what our current housing situation is and where we need to go from here. The data regarding the number and size of units in each building, vacancy rate, ownership trends, etc. has proven invaluable in this effort.

Another major issue that a rental registry can address is tenants and municipal staff not knowing who to contact when there is an issue with a rental unit. Lewiston's rental registration program requires that a certificate be posted in the common area of each building with the name and phone number of a property manager for tenants to call in case of an emergency. The city also collects the name and contact information of property owners, since public ownership records often only attribute buildings to anonymous LLCs.

Finally, I also speak as a local landlord who strives to provide quality housing to my tenants and improve their rental experience. Providing rental registry information only takes a few minutes of my time, but it can give valuable insights to municipalities as to the state of rental housing in the community.

Please vote **Ought To Pass** on LD 1806. Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

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