

Jeffrey Harmon - Auburn  
Cara Pelletier - Bangor  
Martin Grohman - Biddeford  
Carl Sheline - Lewiston  
Mark Dion - Portland  
Penelope York - Rockland



Jodi MacPhail - Saco  
Becky Brink - Sanford  
Richard Matthews - South Portland  
Michael Morris - Waterville  
David Morse - Westbrook

Supported By: Mitchell Tardy Jackson Government Affairs - 104 Sewall Street, Augusta, Maine 04330 - 207-622-1365

**Maine Mayors Coalition Testimony on 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"**

Senator Curry, Representative Gere and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, the Maine Mayors Coalition is providing testimony 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."

The Maine Mayors Coalition is a nonpartisan group representing the mayors of eleven Maine communities – Auburn, Bangor, Biddeford, Lewiston, Portland, Rockland, Saco, Sanford, South Portland, Waterville and Westbrook – and nearly 300,000 residents. The Coalition advocates on behalf of our citizens and municipalities for policies that recognize the vital services Maine cities provide and the positive impact Maine cities have on our state. The Coalition seeks to work in partnership with state and federal elected officials to meet the needs of Maine people.

Maine's housing crisis continues to directly impact each of our cities. Every day we see the human and economic consequences that come from the lack of housing supply and the rising costs of homes and rents. As you're well aware, the rental market, like the housing market, remains tight. This ongoing issue makes it difficult for many – including our own municipal employees who provide essential services, teach our children and keep us safe – to afford to live in our cities.

We continue working to find ways to help preserve existing affordable housing and develop new affordable housing. Both are critical for our cities and our state to thrive. LD 1681 would provide an additional tool for us to consider. Including "municipal shelter facilities and housing projects managed and operated by a municipality or a municipal housing authority" in the definition of public service infrastructure would allow us to access more competitive financing through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, lowering the costs of these projects.

We ask you to join us in supporting LD 1681 to give Maine municipalities the opportunity to more prudently invest in much needed housing for our communities.

Thank you for your time and attention.