



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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May 2, 2025

Testimony of Rep. Poppy Arford in support of  
*LD 1723 "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Manufactured Housing Communities to Prevent Excessive Rent and Fees Increases, and LD 1765 An Act to Ensure Affordability and Stability in Housing for Mobile Home Park Residents*  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of Housing and Economic Committee, I am Poppy Arford, and I have the distinct honor of representing House District 101 in Brunswick. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on LD 1723 and LD 1765

### **Support for both bills.**

I appreciate the opportunity to cosponsor LD 1765. I would also have been happy to cosponsor LD 1723. I say this not just out of respect for both sponsors, yet also due to the fact that both bills aspire to address the statewide affordable mobile home crisis. I am not usually drawn to drama, yet I use the word "crisis" as for the first time in my 70 years of being a Maine resident, the ability of mobile home park residents to remain in their homes is at risk, is in some places disappearing – replaced by newer park owners who are intent on profiteering – of raising the rent beyond what is affordable for many mobile homeowners and lot renters.

I am here before you today to provide my strong support for passage of a bill that provides a solution to this crisis. In my district and the Brunswick community there is little if any unsubsidized housing for sale under \$400,000. Our mobile home parks are all that remains for home ownership in this price range. Rep Golek has done a superb job of describing how at least one, Bay Bridge Estates, the largest park in Brunswick, is becoming rapidly unaffordable due to the ever increasing rent increase for residents.

### **Blueberry Field Cooperative.**

I am very grateful for having the Blue Berry Field (BBF) Cooperative mobile home park community in my state house district. I say this as last year I had the privilege of partnering with

them on their journey to becoming a resident owned community. This was made possible by a bill sponsored by Chairwoman Gere LD 1931 “An Act to Foster Stable and Affordable Home Ownership in Mobile Home Parks by Amending the Laws Relating to the Sale of Mobile Home Parks” which your Committee passed in 2023. This bill allowed for the previously named Linnhaven mobile home park to become the BBF Cooperative and purchase their park, effectuating the affordability of their mobile home lot fees into the future. As you did then, I trust that you will now craft a legislation driven path forward that protects the rights and home ownership of mobile home park residents.

**Thank you.**

Thank you to the Housing and Economic Development Committee for your hard work, thoughtful collaboration, and respectful consideration of LDs 1723 and 1765.

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Manufactured Housing Board

<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/manufactured-housing-board>

LD 1931 “An Act to Foster Stable and Affordable Home Ownership in Mobile Home Parks by Amending the Laws Relating to the Sale of Mobile Home Parks”