

MAINE SERVICE CENTERS COALITION

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Testimony of the Maine Service Centers Coalition LD 2116, An Act to Make Permanent the Affordable Housing Income Tax Credit

Senator Grohoski, Representative Sayre and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, the Maine Service Centers Coalition is submitting testimony in support of LD 2116, An Act to Make Permanent the Affordable Housing Income Tax Credit.

The Maine Service Centers Coalition, comprised of 27 towns and cities across the state, articulates the importance of healthy and thriving service center communities, advocates for public policy that supports and contributes to the economic and social viability of our communities, and collaborates with municipal officials, legislators, state agencies and nonprofits to pursue quality of life for all who live and work in our state.

As individuals and families across the state struggle to find safe, affordable places to live, they increasingly turn to our member communities for assistance with housing and other essential services. Our cities and towns strain to help meet their needs within the limits of our own financial and staffing resources.

That's why we appreciate opportunities to work, and in some cases partner, with developers and organizations interested in constructing new affordable housing or rehabilitating existing stock. Our Coalition members recognize the Affordable Housing Income Tax Credit as an important incentive to encourage private investment in qualified affordable housing. Unfortunately, it is set to expire at the end of 2028.

We respectfully ask this Committee to support LD 2116 so the Affordable Housing Income Tax Credit is made permanent. Acting on the tax credit now would reaffirm the state's ongoing commitment to the development of desperately needed affordable housing.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.