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Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, members of the joint standing committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the joint standing committee of Housing and Economic Development. My name is Keith Case, I work for Utile, Inc, and live in Yarmouth, Maine.

I returned to my home state of Maine after several years practicing in Massachusetts in part because of my passion for seeing the State of Maine succeed. Maine cannot succeed without supporting its people. As has been realized by increasingly large amounts of the population, many of the issues facing the state are at their hearts housing issues. Lack of workers stems from lack of available and affordable housing in proximity to jobs. Homelessness stems from lack of affordable and supportive housing systems.

Maine is in the grips of a dire housing crisis. The Governor and the legislature have shown real leadership in the recent legislation as well as the listening sessions held through GOPIF this fall. The \$70m proposed would go a long way in greasing the wheels for increased housing production across the portfolio of housing type required, not only in urban rental properties but also the Rural Rentals and senior housing.

When Maine's people succeed, the state succeeds, and housing is the root condition for supporting its people.